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Latest poll puts Tories ahead

Tax deadlock as Major is put on defensive

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE two main parties were deadlocked in an inconclusive series of exchanges about taxation yesterday.

John Major refused to promise that a Conservative government would not increase the overall burden of direct and indirect tax and Neil Kinnock called for the resignation of the Chancellor over reports that the Tories' spending plans would not be covered by its tax receipts.

The prime minister denied the reports and ruled out any VAT increase by the next Tory government. However, the Labour leader said the VAT cut had been let out of the bag. "It has always been clear that if they were re-elected the Conservatives would have to raise VAT. It is the only way that their sums can begin to add up," Paddy

Matthew Parris regrets the passing of dirty tricks. Full coverage 7-11

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Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, was equally critical of Labour's taxation policies. He said that he would not join any government which had a "crazy economic policy" and added that the prospect that people earning £27,000 a year should pay tax of 49 per cent was "most worrying". He criticised Labour for planning "swingeing taxes on the middle classes".

After a day in which the Conservative leader was forced on to the defensive by Labour's taxation attacks and trade figures that did not match City expectations, a Harris opinion poll for today's *Daily Express* gave the Tories a five-point lead over Labour. The survey of 1,077 people, conducted yesterday and on Sunday, measured Tory support at 43 per cent, with Labour on 38 per cent, the Liberal Democrats on 15 per cent and others on 4 per cent.

Ministers were hoping that the Harris findings were the first indication that their campaign on Labour's tax policies was beginning to bear fruit, but Labour argued last night that Harris' findings were consistently out of line with other pollsters. Their results were at odds with a Mori poll of ten marginal seats for Yorkshire Television which found a swing to Labour of 8.5 per cent, enough to assure Mr Kinnock of a governing majority

if repeated nationwide on a uniform swing. The Mori poll also found the Tories rated only 2 per cent better than Labour at running the economy, traditionally an area where the Conservatives score highly.

Government hopes of economic recovery were boosted by a big rise in both exports and imports, but official figures published yesterday still showed the monthly deficit on visible trade was stuck above £1 billion last month.

The current account, which encompasses trade in visible goods and invisibles, such as banking, insurance and shipping, showed a deficit of £750 million last month and the deficit for January was revised up to £858 million. Share prices fell sharply after the announcement as the City had expected the deficit to be £450 million.

By the close of trading, however, the FT-SE100 index of leading shares had recouped some of its losses to stand at 2,441.0, down 15.6. The pound gained ground against the mark, finishing more than a quarter pence higher at DM2.8646.

Mr Major seized on the silver lining elements in the trade figures, saying that exports were sharply up and that the biggest rise in imports was in capital goods, indicating that firms were re-equipping because they saw the recession coming to an end. "What is excellent is the continued growth in exports. That's very good. There was a substantial increase over the last three months compared with 12 months ago."

Mr Kinnock called the trade figures "quite dreadful" and said they showed the economy flat and quite possibly slipping backwards. The government, he said, was digging an ever deeper hole and leaving Labour to clear up the mess.

The Conservatives shifted

Continued on page 18, col 6

Killer wife is freed

A woman who drugged her husband's stir-fry, beat him to death with a rolling pin and then buried him in the back garden was cleared of murder. She was put on probation for manslaughter. Luton crown court had been told that June Scotland had suffered years of mental torture from her husband, who had also sexually abused their daughter. As she left the court she shouted: "I feel great." Page 3

Cricket date

BSkyB, which has exclusive rights to screen the cricket world cricket, is to allow BBC1 to show highlights of tomorrow morning's final between England and Pakistan tomorrow morning. They will be shown on Sportsnight, which begins at 10pm. Page 9

Cancer survey

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is to undertake the world's biggest study to determine whether there is a link between the pill or hormone replacement therapy and breast cancer. The charity will co-ordinate information gathered from 40 studies involving more than 60,000 women. Page 3

Black anger

The first round of power sharing negotiations in the wake of South Africa's referendum broke down when black leaders rejected a limited advisory role in an interim government. They accused President de Klerk of reneging on a promise to form a multiracial cabinet. Page 13

Libyan offer

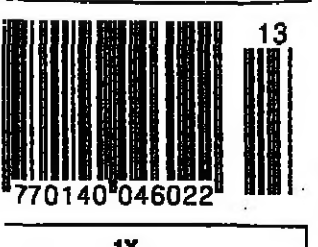
Libya has offered to hand over the two men suspected of the Lockerbie bombing to the Arab League. In line with a suggestion from the United Nations secretary-general. Page 13

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Destination unknown: Labour party aides touring the West End of London in an open-top bus yesterday

27 die in icebound jet crash

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

INVESTIGATORS were last night trying to establish why the crew of an airliner that crashed at New York's La Guardia airport, killing 27 people, did not have the jet de-iced before take-off, even though it had been standing in snow and freezing conditions for at least half an hour.

Rescuers marvelled that almost half the number of passengers aboard USAir flight 405 to Cleveland survived. Twenty-four escaped after being buried into the mud and shallow waters of Flushing Bay as the twin-engine Fokker F-28 tried to take off in a snowstorm. Witnesses said most of the petrol-soaked survivors waded ashore and walked about a mile to an airport terminal. Four others crawled to a motorway near by and flagged down a van for help.

The bodies of those who died were recovered from the partially submerged wreckage, some charred and still strapped into their seats. "The aircraft was just ripped apart so bad, I couldn't believe there were any," George Davern, a police diver, said. "The wreckage was a quarter mile, maybe a half a mile long. Everything was in flames," he said. A wing

Continued on page 18, col 2

AA man spots Indians smuggled in by lorry

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HOME OFFICE immigration officials today will consider the future of 16 illegal Indian immigrants spotted by an AA patrolman climbing out of the back of a long-distance lorry under cover of darkness at an M4 service station near London.

The men who speak only Punjabi are likely to be returned to India. The Danish driver of the lorry has also been held by police as investigators try to discover how many immigrants were in the consignment and the route of the lorry. One witness suggested that as many as 30 immigrants, well-dressed and clutching baggage, climbed out from the lorry as it stood parked at the Heston service station, west of London.

The Indians are the latest group of illegal immigrants to reach Britain by hiding inside vehicles in rackets organised from Europe. Anemips are being made by the Home Office to improve detection methods at ports as restrictions on frontier controls are planned for the start of 1993.

One man being questioned told investigators that he had booked his passage with a Romanian in Germany and paid about £170 to get to Wolverhampton. Last night there was speculation that the men, aged between 20 and 42, cut their way out of the canvas sides of the lorry assuming they had reached

their destination because the vehicle had stopped.

The lorry was part of a convoy of four coming to Britain from Copenhagen with a mixed consignment of windows, cakes and confectionery. Police believe that only one lorry contained immigrants.

The convoy started off on Saturday, drove through Germany and into The Netherlands to reach the Hook of Holland. The lorries arrived at Harwich at 6am on Sunday on a Dutch ferry. Later that night they were parked at the service station when the immigrants tried to leave.

Steve Lawrence, an AA night patrolman, was in the lorry park when he heard chattering noises. He said: "I was just opening up my flask of coffee when I heard this excited chattering. I looked up and saw them coming out of the back of a lorry parked in front of me. I couldn't comprehend what was happening at first. They were filing out of the back of the lorry like a load of paras."

"I wanted to phone the police - but I didn't want to be seen on the phone. They had cut their way out of the lorry - so it was obvious one of them had a knife. And I guessed they were illegal immigrants wanting to come to the country. I was worried they might be desperate." To avoid being seen he lay on

TODAY IN THE TIMES

LUCKY JIM



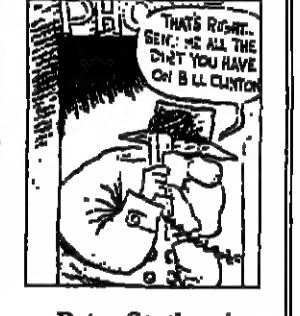
A happy professor in praise of the charmed life of academe
Life & Times Page 1

PORTRAIT OF A LADY



Is one of two madonnas from Leonardo's studio a true masterpiece?
Life & Times Page 3

SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL



Peter Stothard joins the muckrakers' mystery tour
Page 14

Will your only legacy be upset, confusion and paperwork?

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British Gas chief gets 17.6% pay rise

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE British Gas chairman Robert Evans accepted a 17.6 per cent pay rise, to £435,222, last year despite the criticism of his 66 per cent increase in 1990.

The increase swiftly rekindled the dispute over big pay rises for executives in former state industries and made it a general election issue last night. John Major issued a rebuke, saying that although pay levels must be a matter for the firms concerned, chairman "should exercise leadership in questions of pay".

At the same time privatised industry chiefs were challenged to publish details of their salaries and perks before the election.

The rise was criticised by consumer groups and the trade unions and Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, alleged that the true price of privatisation

Comment, page 23

Millionaires win, doctors lose, with Labour

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY ECONOMICS EDITOR

A HEADTEACHER or doctor earning £40,000 a year would pay more in additional taxes to a Labour government than a millionaire living on a private income of £100,000. This seeming anomaly results from a last-minute decision by John Smith to load his main tax burdens onto middle-class employees, while protecting people on private incomes and the self-employed.

Many of the TV personalities, barristers and company directors who have backed Labour would therefore pay relatively little, while the senior public servants and middle managers, perceived by Labour strategists as irredeemably Conservative voters, would be the hardest hit.

The £40,000 headteacher would pay an extra £1,700 a year as a result

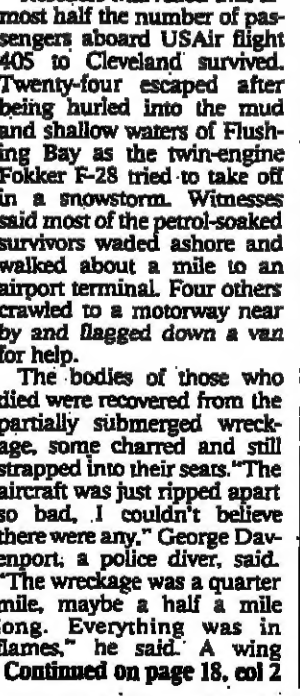
of Mr Smith's proposals. A married millionaire, with £2 million invested in the stock market to produce a dividend income of £100,000, would pay only £1,680 extra, even if he does not take advantage of the tax shelters Labour has pledged to retain for the life of the next parliament. By putting part of their capital into personal equity plans and taking advantage of capital gains tax allowances, the millionaire family could reduce their tax liability by a further £13,000 annually. The total cost to them of Mr Smith's proposals would be £400.

There are two principal reasons for the contrast in tax treatment between wealthy people living on investment incomes and the employed middle class. The first is Mr Smith's unexpected decision to exempt investment incomes from his new 9 per cent national insurance tax. Self-employed taxpayers, including most of

the highest earners in the arts and professions, would also be exempted from the new national insurance tax.

For employed taxpayers, by contrast, the national insurance levy will make up the lion's share of the extra tax burden. An employee would have to earn more than £210,000, before his income taxes in the new 50p top bracket exceeded his extra national insurance contributions. A Harley Street consultant who earned £100,000 a year outside the national health service would generally pay a smaller share of his income to Labour than a GP on £40,000.

A second big difference arises from a long-standing anomaly in Britain's tax treatment of married couples. Most industrialised countries, including Germany, France and America, allow married couples to split their entire incomes between the two partners so as to take advantage of



Just remember your keeping the chairman from the breadline...

Police fear border control changes

Immigrants risk all as human cargo dispatched to UK

ILLEGAL immigrants desperate to enter Britain in hope of a better life are increasingly being smuggled in as human cargo, hidden in the back of juggernauts or strapped to the underframes of lorries.

The upsurge is causing concern among officials at the Home Office and senior police officers who fear that the relaxation of EC border controls next year will bring even greater growth in the illicit trade.

Even if the human cargo manages to evade the checks at Britain's east and south coast ports, immigration officers have extended their surveillance to lorry parks outside the docks and carry out operations in key British cities where illegal immigrants are suspected to gather.

Last year during raids for illegal immigrants, 400 people were found to have been smuggled into the UK compared with 160 in 1990. A total of 6,000 people were found after entry to have breached immigration laws, including those who had overstayed, were working without permission and had entered the country by deception.

The arrest of sixteen Indians at Heston service area on the M4 west of London is the latest in a series of incidents in which illegal immigrants have been caught many miles from their port of entry. In January eight were held at Maidstone in Kent after immigration officers watching a car park saw four men leave a trailer. Four more were hiding inside.

A month earlier, a Belgian lorry driver admitted in court that he had been promised £84 to take four illegal immigrants across the channel. They had hidden behind crates of ink and he dropped them at Mertonbury service station on the M4.

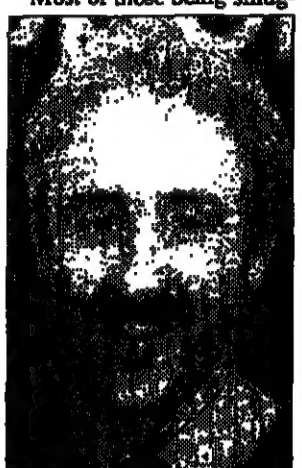
In at least three cases immi-

Stewart Tendler looks at the growth in smuggling immigrants in the light of yesterday's arrests on the M4

grants have been caught in small inflated vessels off the Kent coast at Broadstairs. In one case a mother and baby were among seven illegal immigrants found in a rubber dinghy off Broadstairs. Once caught the immigrants are deported.

Home Office officials believe that the growth in attempts to smuggle people into the UK is a direct result of a growing expertise in sporting people arriving with forged documents. By investing in sophisticated technical equipment that can detect forgeries, training airline and other immigration staff in 40 countries, and working closely with airlines, British immigration officers believe that they have driven people to seek more desperate and dangerous methods to enter Britain.

Most of those being smug-



Steve Lawrence, the AA man: alerted by excited chattering

gled into Britain in lorries are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey. So far, there has been little evidence that people from eastern Europe and the Magreb countries of North Africa are being smuggled in aboard lorries.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that each person pays between £1,000 and £5000 for the entire trip, which usually involves those from the Indian sub-continent flying to Germany before being transported across Europe to channel ports such as the Hook of Holland, Ostend, Zeebrugge and Rostock and then across to ports like Harwich and Dover.

The drive across Europe takes advantage of cursory border checks between EC countries with drivers offered up to £1,000 cash to smuggle illegals into Britain.

It is suspected that illegal immigrants from outside western Europe are exploiting the German constitution, which allows all asylum seekers a safe haven. Once in the EC, bogus refugees then pay smugglers to be taken to Britain.

As part of efforts to combat smuggling, immigration officers conduct sudden purges at ports in which every lorry arriving from the continent is checked. In some cases officers in unmarked cars watch other inland points close to the ports.

They have also worked with the metropolitan police in bringing to court 16 couriers who have been convicted and sentenced to up to two years in prison. In the UK, immigration officers have been involved in a series of high profile swoops aimed at detaining suspected illegal immigrants. Last year 74 foreigners were held in a raid on a south London factory.

M4 arrests, page 1
Leading article, page 15



Held for questioning: two police officers escorting one of 16 men discovered leaving a lorry on the M4

Lawless Punjab offers easy way out

The black market in stolen passports and visas is big business in parts of India, Christopher Thomas reports from Delhi

PUNJABIS trying to enter Britain illegally often use an easily traced network of crooks specialising in fraudulent passports and visas, many of them operating behind the facade of legitimate travel agencies.

The going rate for a British visa is 150,000 rupees (£3,000), a vast amount by local standards. Only American visas cost more—usually around 200,000 rupees. The visas are usually obtained from stolen passports, or passports sold to visa touts and then reported as lost.

In all the big cities of Punjab, travel agents offering fraudulent visas are general-

ly well known. In the lawless atmosphere, with police easily bribed, there is no serious prospect of legal action.

Italian visas used to be the easiest to obtain; once there, illegal immigrants were put in contact with middle-men who would smuggle them into Britain. Italy has tightened its visa regulations, however, and alternative routes are being constantly tested.

For a time, eastern Europe

offered new hope to illegal immigrants, but visa regulations have proved extremely irksome. Businessmen are able to obtain visas reasonably easily, but tourists find it hard to persuade officials that they are not planning to disappear into an illegal immigration network for transportation to western Europe. Punjabis are the most persistent would-be illegal immigrants because they want to escape the violence of

their state. Anybody with money is a target for kidnapping and extortion rackets; it is those people who are most desperate to leave, and who have the means.

Visa designs are nowadays usually too complex to be copied, and in some countries such as America and Australia can be instantly checked by scanners at airport immigration desks. A visa taken from a stolen passport would be instantly identified. "The cost of false visas has risen substantially, in line with the increased difficulties involved," a travel agent with close contacts with the racket said.

Curfews in Ulster rejected

The prime minister has ruled out several radical changes in security policy in Northern Ireland including curfews, identity cards and the effective sealing of the border (Edward Gorman writes).

In a written reply to Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, John Major said that while he was not able to agree with many of Mr Paisley's ideas, he intends to hold further talks with him if returned to power.

A spokesman for Mr Major said that Mr Major's tone and detailed consideration of the points put to him was a sign that he was taking the party's views seriously.

Skydive charge

Two organisers of a parachuting display event at Tilstock, in Shropshire, last August at which John Ward, aged 42, a skydiver of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, fell 12,000ft to his death, have been jointly charged with manslaughter. Police said that the pair were charged after extensive investigations and would not be identified until they appeared before Whitchurch magistrates on Monday.

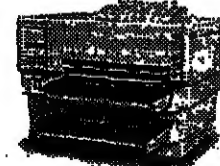
Voyager fined

A sailor who led a 1,200-mile voyage from Whitby to the Arctic Circle was fined £400 with £600 costs by Teesside crown court for breaching maritime law. Jack Lammiman, aged 55, of Whitby, sailed the 62-year-old Helga Maria to Jan Meyen Island, Greenland, with four others on board while the ship was under a detention order pending safety checks.

CORRECTION

Lord Hotham is to open the Royal Armouries' travelling exhibition of civil war arms and armour, sponsored by The Times, at a private view at the Town Docks Museum in Hull on April 10, and will not be taking part in the city's civil war re-enactment on April 25, as reported in The Times yesterday. The exhibition will be open to the public in Hull from April 11 to May 31.

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Curfew in Ulster rejected

Mental state of woman who battered husband to death with rolling pin was impaired, court rules

Tormented wife cleared of murder

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A WOMAN who battered her husband to death after being subjected to years of mental torture and then buried the body under a weeping willow in the back garden was freed by a court yesterday after being cleared of murder.

June Scotland, aged 52, was sentenced to two years probation after being convicted at Luton crown court of the alternative charge of the manslaughter of her husband Thomas, aged 48, on the grounds of diminished responsibility in 1987.

Scotland ground up sleeping pills and sickness tablets and put it in his evening meal but when that failed she beat him to death with a rolling pin.

With the help of her daughter Caroline, aged 21, who received two years probation after admitting preventing a lawful burial, she buried him in the back garden of their home in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, where he lay undiscovered for four years until a neighbour began to dig foundations for a fence.

Mr Justice Garland sentenced her to probation on condition that she lives at a women's refuge in London. He said: "No good whatsoever would be served by seeking to punish you further. You will have to co-operate with the probation service very fully while they assess your needs." He told Caroline, who has a three-year-old daughter: "When you were 18 you found yourself in a situation that must have

been impossible, almost an intolerable burden on you." As she left the court through a back entrance Scotland shouted: "I feel great." Bob Amos, her solicitor, said: "She is very relieved at the result. She is happy to be reunited with her daughter."

Mr Amos said Scotland was "grateful that the jury had believed three psychiatrists who had given evidence that at the time of the killing her mental state had been impaired because of the ordeal she had gone through". The jury was told that Mr Scotland had sexually abused his daughter since she was 11.

Michael Stuart-Moore, QC, for the prosecution, said that Scotland had killed her husband after lacing his meal of Chinese stir-fry with 48 ground-up travel sickness and sleeping tablets. This made him groggy and he went upstairs to lie down.



Scotland: behaviour was "monstrous"

Moments later when his wife appeared in the doorway he guessed what had happened and demanded she call a doctor. She attacked him. Mr Scotland put up a struggle before he died.

Caroline, who had been in the house at the time of her parents' fight, appeared on the scene. The women wrapped his body in a tarpaulin sheet which they bound with his ties. They dragged it outside to a garden shed. Twenty-four later, at midnight, they dug a shallow grave.

Both women covered up the killing for four years, saying Mr Scotland had suddenly gone to Saudi Arabia to work as a contract electrician. The secret was uncovered on Easter Day last year when a neighbour, erecting a garden fence, uncovered the husband's remains.

Helena Kennedy, QC, for the defence, said Scotland had for years endured the "monstrous behaviour" of a dictatorial and strict husband who showed no care or consideration for her, Caroline or the two sons of the family.

Nigel Eastman, a forensic scientist who interviewed Scotland in Holloway where she was on remand, said that she had received drug medication for depression because of her husband's domineering behaviour. He drank heavily, treated her like a servant and had hit her since the first week of their 22-year marriage.



Ordeal over: Caroline Scotland, left, and her mother June, right, leaving the court yesterday

Family in holed boat swims for life

MEMBERS of a family roped themselves together and leapt into the freezing sea as their motor cruiser began to break up after hitting a sandbank in darkness early yesterday.

Sally Allen, aged 34, of Arbrofield, near Reading, Berkshire, said later that as she swam she pushed her two daughters, Claire, aged 12, and Nicky, aged 14, ahead of her until they reached the shore at the entrance to Chichester harbour, West Sussex.

The 41ft cruiser *Gazelle*, bound for Hayling Island, was holed after striking a sand bar. On board were Mrs Allen's husband Brian, aged 40, his uncle Clive Nichol, aged 51, and a friend, Paul Smith. The *Gazelle*'s radio equipment failed, making distress calls impossible.

Mrs Allen said: "We just swam for our lives and rode the waves, with the men pushing us over the waves until we could stand up." They suffered from hypothermia, shock and cuts and bruises.

Final bastion falls to news

The Dundee Courier, Scotland's last daily newspaper to carry only advertising on its front page, is to be relaunched on Monday with page-one news, reflecting a move made by *The Times* a quarter of a century ago. The *Inverness Courier* put news on its front page in 1990.

The *Courier*, formerly *The Courier and Advertiser*, sells about 120,000 copies in Tayside and Fife and is published by D. C. Thomson. Its first column yesterday led with a plea for work by a gamekeeper with "much experience in dealing with all vermin".

Holbein offer

The National Gallery confirmed yesterday that it had made a formal offer to buy *Lady with a Squirrel* by Hans Holbein, which had been expected to fetch at least £15 million at auction on April 15. The painting, believed to show the daughter of Sir Thomas More, is owned by Lord Cholmondeley and has hung at his family home, Houghton Hall, in Norfolk, for centuries.

Armour fears

Peter de Savary is selling Littlecote House, his Wiltshire Tudor mansion, for £6 million, raising concerns about the world's finest collection of civil war armour. The 275 pieces, bought by the Royal Armouries six years ago for £580,000, are housed in Littlecote's great hall and are on public display. If the new owner closes the house they will be moved to the Tower of London.

Legal pay-outs

The newly-appointed Legal Services Ombudsman has ordered compensation sums of £250 to £1,800 to clients who have suffered from incompetent solicitors and says that bigger sums may follow. Michael Barnes said that he used new powers under the Courts and Legal Services Act to make recommendations in response to about 50 of the complaints investigated.

Sausage lovers sing their praise

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH sausages, threatened by Eurocrats and suspected by health food enthusiasts, have now proved themselves the most inspirational of foodstuffs. They have provided the raw material, so to speak, for more than 400 new songs entered in the 1992 British Sausage Song Contest.

The finals of the event, similar in style and content to the Eurovision song contest but more single-minded, were staged yesterday at the Players' Theatre, Charing Cross, and proved that sausages can stir deep and unsuspected emotions in the nation's composers and lyric writers.

The competition was judged by a panel including Richard Stilgoe, the writer of a nifty ditty celebrating "the carnivores' banana" and claiming that while two eggs make the eyes, a tomato the nose, and rashers of bacon moustaches, you need a British sausage for the smile.

The six songs chosen as finalists were equally ingenious, though various in mood. The most upbeat, written by Jim Birmingham, proclaimed in Chas and Dave style:

Great British sausage that makes Great Britain great
There is no better way to fill up your plate.

Doug Taylor, hailed by the judges as Elvis reborn as a Dewhurst manager, managed a passable imitation of the King craving one last banger at the Heartbreak Hotel with the solo line:

And when I think of the moment that our loving had to end
A juicy sausage will be my best friend.

Gordon Schofield's ditty, *Living in the Saus-Age*, tunelessly climaxed with the line "and I want to share my sausage with you", while the most emotionally charged was an evocative ballad called *Sausages and Tears* by John Watts and Fischer Z, only slightly handicapped by the line "I like lots of pork so I can hardly walk".

All these paled, though, before a rap number entitled *Bangers!* and recorded by Cliff Douce under the pseudonym of MC Banger. This item was duly judged Britain's song for a sausage, and Mr Douce will be rewarded with a Yamaha keyboard worth £1,700 and a professional recording session.

In the encouraging words of Richard Stilgoe: "Don't worry about BSE, John Selwyn Gummer eats them for his tea."

Study launched into pill and breast cancer links

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE world's biggest investigation has been launched to find out if women who take the pill or hormone replacement therapy are at higher risk of developing breast cancer.

Mounted by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the study will pool all the data from at least 40 previous studies involving more than 60,000 women in Britain and overseas. The findings should settle a controversy that has flared on and off for years, leaving millions uneasy about either drug.

Valerie Beral, project leader, said that 15,000 women died from breast cancer in Britain every year. "Some studies have shown an increased risk of breast cancer in younger women who have taken the pill, but studies of older women who are more likely to get breast cancer have not found any effect. It is clear that whatever the effects are they are very small. On the other hand, breast cancer is so common that even a small increase in risk would be important."

The study, known as a "meta analysis", will compare 30,000 women with breast cancer and an even larger

group of unaffected women. Dr Beral said: "We are going to look at their history of oral contraceptive use and also at their use of HRT. We shall also check their pregnancy history, the number of children they had and how old they were when their first child was born. This is important, since the younger they are the more protection they have against breast cancer."

Dr Colin Markland, medical adviser to Schering, the

world's biggest pill manufacturer, said: "Naturally, we shall be very interested to see the outcome of this study." Linda Edwards, director of the National Osteoporosis Society, which advocates hormone replacement therapy to counter the effects of the menopause, also welcomed the study. She said that the expert consensus was that taking HRT for up to ten years did not increase the risk of breast cancer.

Health target missed

A SECOND regional health authority says that it cannot clear its two-year waiting list by April 1. The other 12 of the 14 authorities expect to meet the government's target (Jeremy Lawrence writes).

West Midlands region had 1,557 patients who had been waiting for more than two years at the end of February, down from 2,232 at the end of January. "We won't treat them all this month but the people left will have appointments," the authority said. It expected to have 700 to 800 left at the end of this month.

Three weeks ago, North East Thames said that it could not clear its two-year list by the April 1 deadline because of a problem in plastic surgery. It said that it needed until the end of June.

In the West Midlands, the drive to cut waiting lists is led by John Yates, adviser to the health department until he resigned last year over the decision to make eliminating the two-year lists the priority. He said needier patients might be denied treatment to accommodate others who had waited longer.

Baby was stabbed 80 times

A MOTHER, abandoned by her "highly critical" lover, stabbed her six-month-old son 80 times, an Old Bailey judge was told yesterday. "He will be better off with God," she told friends afterwards.

Leonora Taylor, aged 29, of Croydon, Surrey, had been under the care of health visitors, social workers and rehabilitation workers because she had suffered for years from manic depression. "There can be no criticism of the level of social and nursing support you had," Mr Justice John Leonard said.

Colin Morgan, the father of the boy, sat in the public gallery. Heather Hallett, QC, for the prosecution, said that once Dominic was born in January last year Morgan failed to live with her and his visits grew less and less. When he did turn up he was highly critical of Miss Taylor and taunted her. He told her she was a "hopeless" mother and this destroyed her confidence, said Miss Hallett. In fact she was loved her baby.

The judge ordered that Miss Taylor, who admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, should be kept in a secure mental unit without limit of time.

Site of Orkney rituals 'found'

By KERRY GILL

OFFICIALS of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children believe that they may have discovered the site on Orkney where children were alleged to have been subjected to ritual sex abuse.

An informant was said to have given information that led police and society investigators to an isolated spot beside an old quarry. It was under observation at the weekend. The site was on the island of South Ronaldsay, home of the nine children seized in dawn raids by social workers in February last year.

The latest allegations made to the society, from an unnamed informant, are understood to have claimed that the site was being used as a gathering place for a paedophile ring. A spokesman for the society said: "Information was received from a source we consider to be reliable. This was passed on to the proper authorities who acted accordingly. We are unable to comment further because we understand the matter is still under investigation."

Plain clothes police kept the site under observation at the weekend although nobody turned up and nothing suspicious was found. A Highland police spokesman said it had been an "operational matter" and he could not comment.

The enquiry into the actions of social workers and police last year, being held before Lord Clyde, is expected to end this week.



Inimitable talent: stamps based on photographs taken by the Duke of York, have for the first time been treated with a special ink to prevent forgery



Schoolboy prank ends in deaths

By PETER VICTOR

POLICE in Lancashire are searching for up to four children whose schoolboy game resulted in two deaths.

Roy Robinson, aged 73, and Fred Jones, aged 66, both collapsed with fatal heart attacks outside their homes as they chased the boys who had been knocking on the doors and windows of Mr Robinson's flat in Great Harwood.

The boys had been playing pranks on the elderly men, running away or taunting them in the street after knocking at their homes. On Sunday Mr Robinson lost his patience. He went out to reprimand them with the boys but collapsed and died after chasing them for just a few yards.

Mr Jones, his next-door neighbour, went out to join the chase on hearing the noise. As the boys fled, he too collapsed and died later in hospital.

Police visited the neighbourhood and local schools yesterday but said that there was no intention to bring legal proceedings against the boys. "They were playing the kind of game a lot of kids do," a spokesman said. "There is

no suggestion of any charges against them." The two men had a history of heart trouble and a pathologist had confirmed that as a cause of death. "It is a tragedy unique in my experience."

Police said up to four boys were involved. One was aged about nine with long blond hair and one of the others was dark haired and aged about ten.

Joan Harris, aged 63 and one of the men's neighbours, said: "These lads have made our life hell for months. They continually pester you in the street. They play silly games with you shouting and bawling and swearing. They ring doorbells and run off, that sort of thing. It terrifies the elderly and infirm."

One of the staff at the nearby Commercial Hotel said: "These kids don't seem to have a childhood anymore. They just leap from nappies to streetwise gangs roaming the roads causing trouble. I suppose one of the problems is there is not much else to do around here."

Police are compiling a report on the deaths for the coroner.

Race for better horseshoe

ENGINEERS more used to smoothing the path of a 180mph Formula One car over the bumps of a race track are turning to their attention to horsepower of a more basic kind.

Lotus, manufacturer of high performance road and race cars, has been asked to devise an independent suspension system for racehorses.

Although racehorses run on grass, they, too, suffer the same vibrations on hard ground as a Formula One car tackling a tarmac course at high speed.

The latest Formula One cars, such as the Williams car driven to victory by Nigel Mansell in the Mexico grand prix at the weekend, have their race smoothed by a clever electronic system.

It reads the bumps and adjusts the suspension to take the worst out of the jolts.

A racehorse "sorts the shock through its legs, leading at best to a poor performance and at worst to withdrawal from a race or even injury."

Lotus confirmed yesterday that it has been asked by an unnamed owner and trainer to come up with a

A racehorse trainer has asked car engineers to design a shoe to give horses more spring, reports Kevin Eason

new type of horseshoe which can absorb impact and provide spring for the legs.

Conventional racing horseshoes are aluminium or thin steel, specially made for each race to be light and allow the horse the correct grip according to whether the ground is soft or hard.

The shoes do nothing to ease the jarring as each leg hits the ground at speeds of 30mph and more, too often resulting in injuries and long and costly veterinary treatments.

One owner became disgruntled about the number of his horses which were having to be withdrawn from races because of hard ground caused by the long dry spell of the past two years.

The trainer, whose name remains confidential for commercial reasons, remembered driving an old Lotus Cortina sports saloon

and contacted Lotus at the company's Hethel headquarters at Norfolk to see if engineers could help.

Lotus engineers agreed to investigate but quickly realised that they were being asked to come up with the equine equivalent of athlete's Nike or Reebok running shoes, which absorb ground shock but allow the legs to spring back for the next stride.

Patrick Peal, Lotus's head of communications, said yesterday: "Technology has not really moved on in the world of horse-racing while we have been at the leading edge in the development of technology for racing and road-going sports cars."

"What horses need is the same as the needs of the athlete: a light running shoe which provides strength and support but provides shock absorption and spring."

With 2,000 horses training at Newmarket alone, a new shoe could have wide spread implications for the racing industry if it was proved to be successful.

Lotus says that it is just at the design stage, with engineers working on computer models and making studies of the precise leg motion of horses.

Crippled man was dumped on verge

By PETER VICTOR

A MAN paralysed after being battered with a plank was described by the doctor treating him as "a nutter" and thrown out of hospital by the police, the General Medical Council has been told.

Gordon McCann, aged 44, of Rough Common, Glasgow, was admitted to the city's Royal Infirmary after the attack, but was branded as a drunkard.

Richard Makower, aged 36, a registrar, of Canterbury, Kent, faces four charges of serious professional misconduct.

Pc Andrew Warnock said he dragged the man from his hospital bed and dumped him ten miles away just outside Glasgow.

Mr McCann told the committee that one of the policemen who dumped him at the roadside said: "I hope you die, you bastard."

Mr McCann, now wheelchair bound, had been living rough when he was attacked. He was taken at about 2am on March 11, 1990, to the Royal Infirmary and told Dr Whitfield, a senior house officer, that he could not move, the committee heard.

Dr Whitfield felt Mr

McCann was "functional" and consulted Mr Makower, the registrar. "I said to Mr Makower that I had seen a patient who had been hit with a plank and I'm sure I told him that he had a laceration on his head, but was unable to move his arms and legs," Dr Whitfield said.

He described how Dr Makower lifted up one of Mr McCann's arms and let it drop. "Mr Makower said that it was the funniest quadruplegic that he had ever seen," Dr Whitfield said.

Mr McCann was lifted to his feet but fell to the ground. "Dr Whitfield tried to pick him up, but Mr Makower said: 'No, leave him there and he will soon stand up. If he does not move, get the police to remove him.'"

At 4.15am Dr Whitfield re-examined Mr McCann, who was still unable to move, and arranged for him to be admitted to a ward.

Next day two police officers arrived at the hospital where Mr Makower told them he wanted Mr McCann removed, saying: "The man is just a nutter." The hearing continues.

Planning officer shooting case

Bungalow man says he received approval

BY PETER DAVENPORT

ALBERT Dryden, the man accused of shooting dead a council planning officer in a dispute over an illegally built bungalow, told a jury yesterday that the official had previously given him verbal permission to erect the building.

He said that Harry Collinson, the chief planning officer of Derwentshire Council, had been friendly and helpful when he first used his £13,000 redundancy payment from British Steel to buy the plot of land for the bungalow.

Mr Dryden, aged 51, told the jury at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, on the sixth day of his trial for murder, that Mr Collinson had given him verbal permission to build in a hollow of land at Buttsfield, near Consett in County Durham.

He said that he spent 2,560 hours and £5,100 putting up the bungalow, which he was ordered to demolish after the council insisted it had been constructed without planning permission.

On a June day last year the long running dispute came to

a tragic conclusion when Mr Collinson arrived to supervise a team of demolition men who were to pull down the building. Three unarmed police officers were on duty in case of any breach of the law and the confrontation was witnessed by television cameras and newspaper journalists.

The jury had been told that Mr Dryden strapped a revolver and holster to his waist and shot Mr Collinson dead with three bullets to his head and chest before wounding PC Stephen Campbell and Tony Belmont, a BBC television reporter.

Mr Dryden, of Consett, denies murdering Mr Collinson and has also pleaded not guilty to three charges of attempted murder.

Film footage of the incident shot by the BBC crew and shown on national television news that night has been replayed for the jury.

In the witness box yesterday, Mr Dryden said that Mr Collinson's attitude towards him changed when the demolition order was approved fol-

lowing a public enquiry into the affair.

He said: "I had the feeling that if Mr Collinson had been at the enquiry and told the truth instead of leading me up the garden path, then the inspector would have allowed me to keep it [the bungalow] for alternate use."

"Mr Collinson told me when I went to see him that he couldn't go to the enquiry because if he had told the truth he would have probably been finished."

Mr Dryden told the court of an earlier incident during which he said he had discovered Mr Collinson taking photographs of the bungalow.

"He said I was going to be taken to court and fined £2,000 and that when I was in jail they would flatten the bungalow. He was taking photographs then he ran like hell and I chased him."

"He said: 'You little s***, you have been ordered to pull it down for ages but we will flatten it when you are in jail.'"

The trial continues today.



Woman's best friend: Archer with Borzoi, circa 1930, by G. Riebeck and, right, Lefebvre's Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, 1911

THE dog may be man's best friend, his guardian and occasional fashion accessory. Now he has a new role: a lucrative collecting theme.

A Getman industrialist, Uwe Scheid, compiled 500 photographs of canine subjects (Sarah Jane Checkland

writes). He is selling them at Christie's on May 7 because, he says, his own dog died and the images have become too painful. Cynics may believe the £35,000 pre-sale

estimate tells another story. The collection includes daguerotypes, in which the photographer has managed to keep his canine subjects still long enough to achieve

proper exposure. There are also rare examples from the series by Eadweard Muybridge in which, just over a century ago, animal movement was captured for

the first time in a sequence of shots (estimate £400).

More entertaining are the snapshots of social mores, such as Jacques-Henri Lefebvre's Avenue du Bois de Boulogne of 1911, with two small dogs paraded as an accessory for their mistress.

Dogged collector sells up

Ramblers press for forest access

BY JOHN YOUNG

PUBLIC access to the national forest planned for the Midlands will be unreasonably restricted, the Ramblers' Association complained yesterday.

Alan Mattingly, the association's director, said that the government and the Countryside Commission seemed to believe that to persuade landowners to allocate land for free planting they had to be assured that public access would not be required. "Unless a change of direction is taken, the new national forest will become a fenced off, private haven for local landowners, not the public."

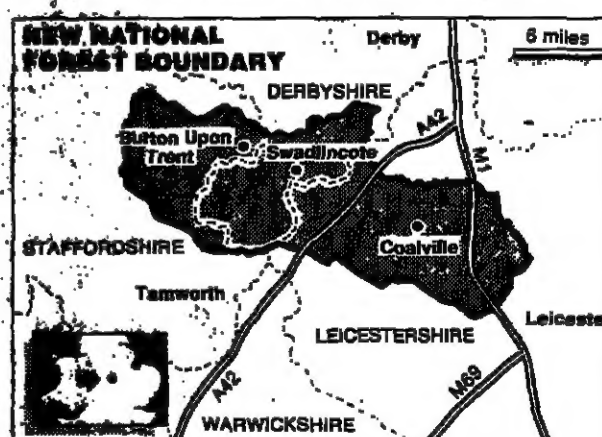
Mr Mattingly said that the forest, to be modelled on the New Forest in Hampshire, could be established only with substantial public money. The public should therefore have a fair return for its investment in the form of reasonable access, and landowners who accepted grants should be told at the outset of their obligation to provide it.

In a report the association accepts that there cannot be

unlimited access. Restrictions may be needed to avoid damage to young trees and to sensitive nesting sites, and on certain days to allow shooting. But there should be more extensive access than the present rights of way. The public wants a forest as accessible as the New Forest, the Forest of Dean and Sherwood Forest.

The report says that the Countryside Commission has appointed an advisory board to represent "local authority, business, farming, forestry and other interests", but outdoor recreational bodies are inadequately represented, meetings are in secret, and minutes are not published.

Susan Bell, director of the New National Forest development team, said yesterday: "Our plans are to create a forest that is accessible in every sense, one that is welcoming to the visitor as well as one that is productive and a haven for wildlife." But nobody could promise free public access. "Those rights are not ours to give."



GLC sale has get-out clause

BY KATHY KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

COUNTY Hall in London was sold yesterday to a Japanese property company, but with a clause in the contract allowing a new government to pull out of the deal after the election. Labour would halt the sale.

Shirkyama Corporation has agreed to buy only the riverside building for a sum thought to be about £200 million. The company plans to convert it into a hotel, apartments and business and conference centre. The contract was signed yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Taylor, chairman of the London Residuary Body, and the sale is to be completed in October next year.

The election clause reflects the concern of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, that the sale should not be seen as being rushed through. It could also give the Labour government a second chance.

Mr Heseltine, the shadow environment secretary, said that a Labour government would back the Greater London authority at County Hall but would not partner to occupy part of the site.

£1.1m for crash man who lies

A road crash victim is to receive £1.125 million compensation for brain injuries that turned him into a liar. The award was approved in the High Court yesterday after a judge heard that Robin Capps, aged 24, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, had undergone a personality change since a car struck his moped in 1985, which made him lie to parents and friends.

Mr Capps also lost his sense of smell, walked with a limp and could develop epilepsy. Part of the money will be used to set up a structured damages scheme to provide an inflation-proof income.

In another case yesterday, a girl aged eight was awarded record compensation in the first structured settlement approved by the Northern Ireland High Court. She will receive £5 million by the time she is 60.

Jane Kearney, of Cliftonville, Belfast, is in a wheelchair after suffering brain damage and leg injuries when she was hit by a car three years ago. Under the settlement she will get £90,000 now and £13,694 every year for the rest of her life, rising annually by 5 per cent. The award was against the driver, David Caldwell, from Whitehead, Co Antrim.

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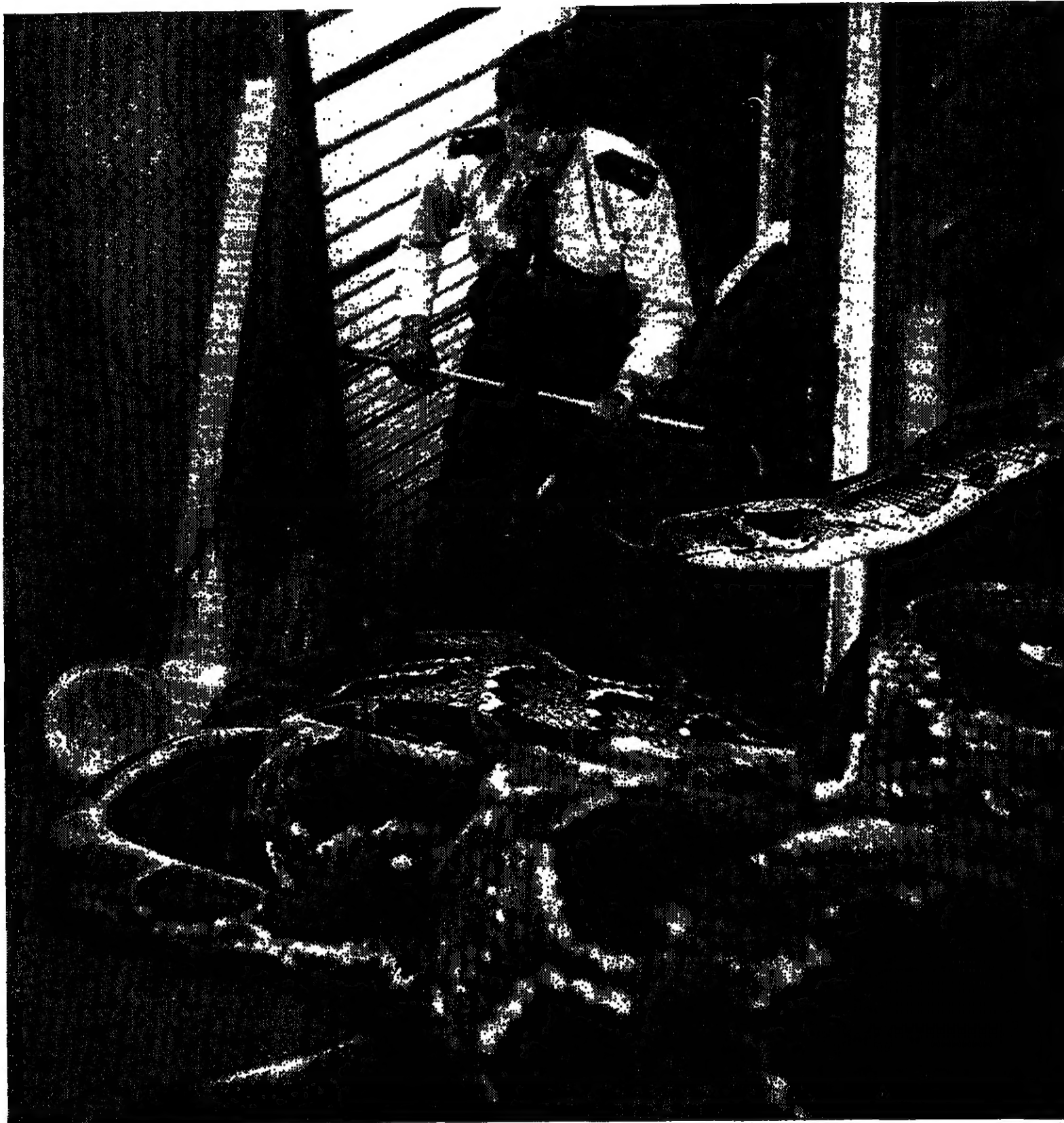
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It was this rather unpleasant situation that faced an RSPCA Inspector last September.

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Or rather, it was the python that captured him, looping its coils around his body.

Fortunately, he managed to release its grip and the snake was quickly placed in a box to be handed over to a specialist.

In a way, the Inspector was lucky. He knew what was likely to happen. Normally, he'd have no idea.

Inspector Nick Green* went to a shop where a dog had been heard whining.

He wasn't unduly worried, it was just a simple everyday case. Even the owner appeared pleasant.

It was only when he entered the yard that he realised he was in trouble, because he faced not one whimpering pooch but 14 snarling guard dogs.

He was fortunate to escape.

*The Inspectors' names have been changed for security reasons.

Nonetheless it took him nearly three months to psychologically recover from the attack.

Unfortunately, savagery is not confined to the animal kingdom.

Chief Inspector Hill* has been threatened with an axe. Inspector King* with a crossbow.

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'Everybody fights for the convicted. Nobody gives a damn about the victim'

Mother seeks justice for dead son

CHRISTOPHER Varma, aged seven, and his brother Iain, aged 14, were mown down by a motor cyclist as they held hands crossing the road, on their way home from a Scout fair on a June Saturday afternoon in 1987.

Their mother, Linda Varma, heard the police and ambulance sirens at home five minutes' walk away. At the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, she found both boys unconscious. Christopher with his right leg hanging off at the knee. He died next day without regaining consciousness, while his brother slowly recovered in intensive care.

The court case which followed, in which the motor cyclist was cleared of reckless driving, is becoming a cause célèbre. It has been studied sympathetically by the prime minister and the Attorney-general, and Lord Denning has intervened over the "gross injustice" suffered by the family.

John Major has asked the Home Office to look again at the arguments for extending prosecution rights of appeal where fresh evidence emerges. The case is also being considered by the Royal

Commission on Criminal Justice, which is deliberating on a change in the law over the retrial of acquitted defendants.

In statements to police, four people estimated the speed of the 1000cc Kawasaki motor cycle which hit the children in a 30mph zone outside a school at about 60mph. Another put it between 70 and 80mph. A further eight described it as fast. Others told how the rider had been practising "wheelies" shortly before the accident.

But after an expert witness, who has since admitted that he was wrong, put the speed between 22 and 38mph, a jury cleared Henry Staats of causing death by reckless driving, for which he would have been jailed. He was fined £250 and banned for two years by Preston crown court in October 1988 for the lesser offence of careless driving.

Mr Staats, now aged 28, had been fined £425 and banned for 18 months in 1982 for maliciously wounding a policeman whom he deliberately rode into when the officer tried to stop him

Michael Horsnell reports on a fight to allow appeals against acquittal after a boy was killed by a motor cyclist

for speeding. Mrs Varma, aged 47, a secretary, has a thick file of documents in a "Dennis the Menace" folder, recording the campaign she has mounted with her husband, Satinder Varma, aged 50.

She said: "Everybody fights for the rights of the convicted. Nobody gives a damn about the innocent victim."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-general, told the couple that David Clapp, the accident investigator, had not had all the necessary information needed to estimate the speed of the motor cycle.

The parents said that Dr Clapp based his calculation solely on Christopher's weight and the height he was thrown, without realising that Iain had also been significantly hit. No allowance

had been made for the velocity absorbed by the elder boy.

Sir Patrick examined a report later commissioned by the parents from another accident investigator, John Knapp, who estimated the speed of the motor cycle at approximately 73mph. At the request of the Attorney-general, the two reports were examined by an independent expert who put the speed at up to 55mph.

Expressing his deepest sympathy to the parents, the Sir Patrick said that as a matter of law, the case could not be reopened. But he ordered John Bates, chief crown prosecutor for Lancashire, to write to the Director of Public Prosecutions about the "crucial importance" of ensuring that expert witnesses were provided with all relevant information.

Mr Major wrote to Mrs Varma saying that the arguments against reciprocal rights of appeal for the prosecution stem from the principle that the prosecution must carry the main burden of proof. But he added: "The government shares your concern that... there is a need for a thorough and wide-

ranging review of our criminal justice system. The Royal Commission's terms of reference specifically require it to have regard to the need to ensure that the guilty do not walk free."

Christopher's parents regard the trial as a farce. Among their many criticisms is that in a statement to police, Alan Darlington, aged 17, the pillion rider, said he was scared by the motor cycle's speed, which he estimated at 60mph just before the accident when Mr Staats overtook three cars. He was not called to give evidence, nor was his statement read to the jury.

Mrs Varma said: "Christopher was a loving, intelligent, mischievous child, a popular boy and top of his class, who put his pennies in the guide dogs for the blind box and stood up for other people. I do what I am doing because of what he left behind for me. I want Chris to be proud of me."

Richard Statham, Mr Staats's solicitor, said: "He is full of remorse, but the case was dealt with on all the evidence considered carefully by the jury."



Linda Varma with a picture of Christopher. 'I want him to be proud of me'

Enquiry begins on jail deaths

An enquiry was launched yesterday into a series of suspected suicides by teenagers held at Feltham young offender institution in west London.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, backed by expert assessors, will investigate the four deaths since last August. Mr Scrivener, last year's chairman of the Bar Council, is conducting the enquiry for the Howard League for penal reform.

Conditions at Feltham, which holds males aged between 14 and 21, were criticised in the institution's board of visitors' annual report in 1991, which disclosed that there were 21 attempted suicides during August alone.

Acid death fine

Caird Environment Group, a waste disposal company of Minworth, Warwickshire, was fined £50,000 after admitting failing to follow safety procedures, causing the death of an employee. Birmingham crown court was told that Arthur Wheeler, aged 52, suffered 52 per cent burns when an unnoticed drum containing acid exploded during a crushing operation.

Crossfire verdict

A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Birmingham coroner on Yvonne Williams, aged 31, a British holidaymaker who was killed by a stray bullet during a gun fight in the Queens area of New York.

Statues stolen

Two large bronze statues valued at £20,000 were stolen from the gardens of Highenden Manor, a National Trust property near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Fuel alert halts space Briton

By Nick Nuttall
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Foale, the Cambridge university graduate who has dreamt of being an astronaut since he was six, was back in quarantine yesterday after the US shuttle mission suffered a technical setback of the kind that has plagued the programme for nearly two years.

At 7.39am GMT, five hours and 22 minutes before lift-off, NASA officials at Cape Canaveral, Florida, postponed the flight after sensors detected fuel leaking into the engine compartment.

The setback forced Dr Foale's parents, Colin and Mary Foale, who have made the trip from Cambridge for the launch, to return to their hotel room. It also ruined the celebrations of an excited party from Belgium, including Princes Philippe and Laurent, who had come to see the launch of Dirk Frimout, the first Belgian in space, who is a member of the seven-man crew.

Engineers worked through the night to discover if the leaks of hydrogen and oxygen fuel were real or an error from the sensors.

The US mission, involving the space shuttle Atlantis and not Columbia as stated in *The Times* on Saturday, has now been tentatively rescheduled for 8am eastern standard time (1pm GMT) today.

Dr Foale, who has been training for the eight-day mission since 1987, was ready to fly last year, a few weeks before the Anglo-Soviet Juno mission that made Helen Sharman the first Briton in space. Yesterday Dr Foale's father, a retired RAF commodore, said: "Naturally he is disappointed but he is a very calm guy and full of zest."

Ditched pilot saved by flying life raft

By Peter Victor

A HELICOPTER pilot forced to ditch in the Irish sea was saved by a passing light aircraft, which dropped a life raft to him. Coastguard and RAF rescue teams arriving to pick up Geoff Dodds, who had ditched because of engine failure, found him sitting in the rubber raft.

Mr Dodds, aged 44, told them that his helicopter had been shadowed by a small aircraft which circled as he hit the water. As he struggled in the cold sea the aircraft swooped to 100 feet, a side door was opened and the life raft was flung down alongside him. Mr Dodds, of Eccles, near Manchester, was flown to hospital in Blackpool suffering from exposure. Yesterday he was recovering at home.

The pilot who came to his aid, Eddie Whittle, a builder from Blackburn, Lancashire, said yesterday that he had been flying his Cessna light aircraft from the Isle of Man to Blackpool when he was alerted by air traffic control that a

helicopter was in difficulties in the area. His passenger caught sight of it travelling in the opposite direction so Mr Whittle swung his aircraft around and followed it until it ditched 20 miles off Morecambe.

Mr Whittle, aged 45, circled as the pilot scrambled out of the helicopter. He could not see a life raft so his passenger threw out the aircraft's dinghy. After seeing Mr Dodds climb into the raft they continued their journey.

"I am pleased I was in a position where I could help save someone's life," Mr Whittle said yesterday. "It was a fluke we were in the area at that time. Our take-off had been delayed at Ronaldsway airport for four hours because of mist."

Sergeant Alan Falconer, the winchman of the RAF helicopter which pulled Mr Dodds from the sea, said: "Mr Whittle's quick thinking and action undoubtedly helped save the helicopter pilot. He wouldn't have lasted long in his condition in waters that cold."

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Major refuses to give pledge on taxation burden

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major was forced onto the defensive yesterday over tax, the issue on which the Conservatives had hoped ceaselessly to harry Labour.

At his London press conference Mr Major refused repeated invitations from journalists to pledge that a re-elected Conservative government would not increase the overall burden of taxation.

He appeared to deny that the overall tax burden including indirect taxes had risen under the Conservatives, although ministers have previously accepted that taxation as a percentage of gross domestic product rose from 34.25 per cent in 1978-9 to 37.75 per cent in 1990-1, the figures given in the Conservative campaign guide 1991.

Mr Major surprised journalists by insisting: "Over the past 12 years the tax burden has remained broadly flat at a period when we have repaid large sums of debt that were inherited from previous governments." Aides explained later that he was referring to the figures in the Budget red book which show that the tax burden was 35.5 per cent in 1979-80 and is scheduled to be 35.75 in 1992-3.

Under repeated challenges, Mr Major reaffirmed that the Conservatives, who are pledged to continue reducing income tax towards the target of 20p in the £, had "no plans and no need" to raise extra resources via indirect taxation by increasing VAT in a future parliament. He made it clear that they had no plans to raise excise duties, the other main indirect tax, by more than the rate required to keep pace with inflation.

"We do not see any need to increase the tax burden," Mr Major said, but he added: "I can't give a categorical assurance that we will reduce it and neither can anybody else. But it is certainly not our expectation that it would have to increase."

Mr Major appeared momentarily disconcerted by

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the questioning and his comments were seen as undermining the vigour of the Conservatives' assault on Labour's tax plans. Labour constantly counters the attacks by suggesting that the Tories have a "secret agenda" for raising indirect taxes.

The tax burden has fallen since the early 1980s but only after the sharp rise induced by the near doubling of VAT from 8 per cent to 15 per cent in the first budget of the 1979-83 parliament. Last night the Conservatives argued that the tax burden was bound to increase at times when the economy grew and real income rose, unless tax rates were cut. What really mattered to people was living standards or real take home pay.

They pointed out that the Conservative government in the early 1980s had deliberately reduced a high level of borrowing inherited from the previous Labour administration. But John Smith, the shadow chancellor, wrote to the prime minister challenging him to admit that he had been wrong in suggesting that the overall tax burden had not risen under the Conservatives.

The Conservatives have spent almost all their energies in the election campaign so far attacking Labour's tax policies, concentrating first on the middle income earners who will suffer from Labour's plan to remove the £22,000 ceiling on national insurance contributions.

But they are aware that only 10-13 per cent of the population are listing taxation as one of the issues on which they will make up their minds who to vote for and

they acknowledge that the target has to be widened, especially to include the electorally vital C2s in the £10,000 to £20,000 earnings bracket.

Mr Major therefore switched away yesterday from John Smith's shadow budget to Labour's manifesto spending plans, which he insists will cost £38 billion. The result, he said, would be an extra tax bill of £1,250 for the average taxpayer on top of any increases in Mr Smith's budget. "It would have the most devastating impact on the lives of everyone in this country that we have ever seen."

The Tories, he said, had 17 days in which to save Britain. He maintained that the Tory blitz on taxation was beginning to hit home and that people were becoming aware of the potential impact of Labour's plans.

One Conservative official said last night: "The £1,250 is what shifts the C2s. It's what everybody will have to pay." Conservatives were rueful yesterday over the press conference which had forced their leader on to the defensive. His responses were seen as the natural caution of a "Treasury man", refusing to commit himself to tax pledges in the unknown period beyond the end of red book predictions for the economy. A less honest politician, they argued, would have brushed away the trouble with a glib assurance.

Tory strategists say that they do not have to make commitments about future tax in the same way as they are asking Labour to do because they do not have spending plans on the scale of Labour's. Mr Major said that the cost of the pledges in the Tory manifesto amounted to less than £1 billion.

Tory planners believe that they can still advance their party's cause by drumming home the taxation theme and by arguing that Labour's taxation plans would intensify rather than cure the recession.



Talking to the people: Tom King, the defence secretary, campaigning for Jeremy Hanley, Tory candidate for Richmond and Barnes with a majority of 1,766, chats to a resident at a home for ex-servicemen and women

Campaign quotes

"The honesty and decency of these people is far superior than what I expect to confront me in the Houses of Parliament"

— Tommy Sheridan, jailed anti-poll-tax campaigner and Labour Militant candidate, speaking of his fellow prisoners

"It was so hard on the daffodils"

— Mrs Thatcher after being attacked by a daffodil-wielding woman

"My wife is not a politician. I'm up for election, not her"

— Paddy Ashdown

"Neil Kinnock was on Concorde on Thursday and look what happened, the rudder fell off"

— British Midland chairman and prominent Tory supporter Sir Michael Bishop

"They are digging an even deeper hole and leaving Labour to clear up the mess"

— Neil Kinnock after trade figures showed Britain £750 million in the red

"I don't want to see bombs going off in London; I don't want to see bombs going off anywhere"

— Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president

"Labour's manifesto promises [on education] are hopes to dream for, not pledges to count on"

— Paddy Ashdown

"The economy is at best flat and possibly slipping backwards"

— Neil Kinnock

"Privatisation has meant huge price increases for the customers and huge pay rises for the bosses"

— Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary

"We have transformed the fortunes of Britain in the last 13 years"

— Kenneth Baker

Labour sees credit controls as economic safeguard

Kinnock accepts inflation risk

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock said yesterday that he would not be prepared to see the economy ruined in order to get zero inflation, making it clear that a Labour government would favour growth rather than too tight a control on inflation.

If the cost of zero inflation, which the Tories had repeatedly stated as their ambition, was zero growth, that would devastate the economy, Mr Kinnock said.

The Labour leader was accused of raising the spectre of mortgage queues after saying that Labour would introduce credit controls, if the economy overheated, to avoid excessive interest rates. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said that Mr Kinnock's remarks "revealed another devastating blow which a Labour government would aim at the housing market and the construction industry".

Mr Kinnock made clear that no controls would be needed if the economy remained flat, but Labour would use a system of reserve asset ratios if the economy overheated. Under such a system, used in the 1960s, a proportion of any bank's liquid assets has to be held by the Bank of England. If there is a credit boom, the government can raise the amount held to ensure that banks are unable to lend more money. Labour would use a system of "credit rationing" which would not be permanently imposed, he said.

Mr Kinnock admitted that during a credit boom mortgage applicants might have to wait for one or two months rather than have to pay interest rates at 15, 16 or 17 per cent. At a press conference later, Mr Heseltine said: "We told you they'd be more expensive. Now you are going to have to queue for them as well."

Asked about John Smith's comments on Sunday that he

would be happy if the level of inflation was on the lines of the EC average, Mr Kinnock said Mr Smith had been misunderstood. "John was talking about the European average and specifically about the Maastricht conditions," said Mr Kinnock.

"We want the lowest possible level of inflation; ideally, if it did not utterly disable the economy in the process, we would like to see zero inflation — who would not?" he continued. "But we are not prepared to see the economy laid waste in order to get zero inflation when we could have a thriving economy, a high employment and a high wage economy, with modest levels of inflation around the aver-

age reached by the German economy of several decades past."

Speaking in Birmingham, where he launched Labour's manufacturing manifesto, Mr Kinnock also made clear that, despite the increasing deficit, Labour would not need to change course from its spending or taxation pledges. Asked whether he would have to put up taxes or cut spending, he said: "I don't accept that they are the only courses. If expenditure pledges were cut, it would undermine basic services, like the national health and education systems, and also deprive the economy of essential investment."

If taxes were raised to fill the deficit, the deflationary effect on the economy would push down confidence and also arrest the possibility of an investment-led recovery.

On a day when every word said about taxes was being scrutinised, Roy Hattersley, also in Birmingham, admitted he had not used the best words on Sunday when he left the door open to tax increases. "My intention yesterday was to say it was for John to decide. It was not the most elegant way of putting it. John did decide on hour and a half afterwards."

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... phut! Nothing. Ten days' campaigning, and still nothing. I'm sorry, but one back-bencher in a bush on Hampstead Heath won't do. The nation is so hungry for scandal that even a dalliance between John Gummer and Dame Elaine Kellert-Bowman, might amuse; but, sadly, no word of such erotica reaches us. Either they're all clean, or politicians have decided to leave that sort of thing out. This is desperate.

Which brings us to dirt. Where is the dirt? The 1992 election was going to be the "dirtiest ever". I was looking forward to it. For years I have vainly hoped that Sir Geoffrey Howe might be a secret transvestite. One long to discover that Gerald Kaufman keeps a troupe of dancing girls in Manchester for his private titillation... so where's the big affair, then? The Ashdown shock boded splendidly, and then

Ashdown gets wary welcome

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE heart of Wales, where sheep outnumber voters ten to one, Paddy Ashdown received a polite, rather world-weary welcome from the local farmers and their livestock but shrieks of delight from the schoolgirls.

He also had a run in, albeit a polite one, with rival Labour and Conservative candidates.

Scouring the horizon for the sight of the occasional voter, the Liberal Democrat leader had gone to the aid of his candidate Richard Livesey, defending a majority of 56 in Brecon and Radnor. With Mansfield, it merits the title of the most marginal seat in the country. It also straddles mid-Wales, measuring 92 miles by 45 miles.

Mr Livesey's hopes were boosted by a NOP/HTV constituency poll at the weekend putting Liberal Democrat

supporters at 35 per cent, Conservatives 32 per cent and Labour 30 per cent.

As Mr Ashdown spoke from the back of a Land-Rover in Brecon town square, a red car carrying Chris Mann, Labour's candidate, with Ann Clwyd, the shadow overseas aid minister, came through the square blasting out "Vote Labour".

"Let them pass. It's a free country," Mr Ashdown ad-libbed. "He has not got anybody to listen to him."

If the voters return Mr Livesey to Westminster, it is likely to be because of loyalty to him rather than promises made in London. One on-looker, Vaughan Rees, who said he has not yet decided who to vote for, pointed to the party's dilemma of the wasted vote syndrome. "The problem is that even if you think they

are good, they are not going to get power to do it are they?"

Earlier, striding through Europe's largest sheep market, in Welshpool, Mr Ashdown came face to face with Jeannie France-Hayhurst, the Tory candidate. There followed a most dignified display of heckling, confined to the occasional mumble of "rubbish" from beneath tweed caps as Mr Ashdown chastised the Tories for abandoning farmers to the cold winds of the free market.

Time to dig the dirt in squeaky clean campaign

A feature in *The Times* yesterday concluded that this election is missing "the big idea". I disagree. What the election is missing is the big joke. This simply isn't funny. Light columnists are close to despair.

Where is the slap, where the tickle we were promised? This, they said, would be "the roughest election in living memory". Rough? So Jack Cunningham and Michael Howard interrupt Sue MacGregor and have a rant at each other on the wireless — you call that rough? So John Major gets jostled in Bolton — wow! So a Militant supporter in Liverpool drops a piece of excrement near the election agent to Liberal candidate Rosemary Cooper — hell, it didn't even hit the agent, let alone the candidate.

Paddy Ashdown (to another Militant job): "Hiyah, friends!" Ashdown: "Well, you might be." Is this the sort of savage exchange expected of a democracy where candidates used to run for their lives, chased by screaming mobs? In his memoirs, *Blood on The Walls*, published next week,



CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

Willie Hamilton writes of his 1945 campaign in East Fife, "the Communists were howling like a pack of wolves... and as soon as I began [they] started to rush the platform... too late, they realised the strength of our supporters, especially the women. The women were terrific. They laid into the Communists, with fists, legs, and tongues... Our 1950 election campaign was even dirtier..."

Which brings us to dirt. Where is the dirt? The 1992 election was going to be the "dirtiest ever". I was looking forward to it. For years I have vainly hoped that Sir Geoffrey Howe might be a secret transvestite. One long to discover that Gerald Kaufman keeps a troupe of dancing girls in Manchester for his private titillation... so where's the big affair, then? The Ashdown shock boded splendidly, and then

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and Smith Square seriously think the electorate want to spend the next fortnight curled up in front of the television with a pocket calculator and copies of Mr Lamont's Budget and Mr Smith's alternative?

This, they said, would be an electoral road strewn with banana skins. Neil Kinnock would make some monumental blunder — suffer a brainstroke and revert to Labour's 1983 manifesto, in an interview with Brian Walden, or do his Bug's Bunny impersonation on *Newsnight*. During a walkabout, Mrs Thatcher would slip, suffer the delusion that she was PM again, and start raving "rejoice, rejoice!" No such luck. Mr Kinnock has turned into a right little sober sides, and Thatcher is sticking to the bottle-green twin-set she reserves for periods of intense self-restraint.

I have nothing to report to you from Monday. There was no rough, no tumble, no slap, no tickle. No jiggery, pokery, cloak, nor dagger. On Monday there were press conferences. Dirtiest? Roughest? Funniest? We've been conned. This election isn't at all serious, and it isn't even slightly funny.

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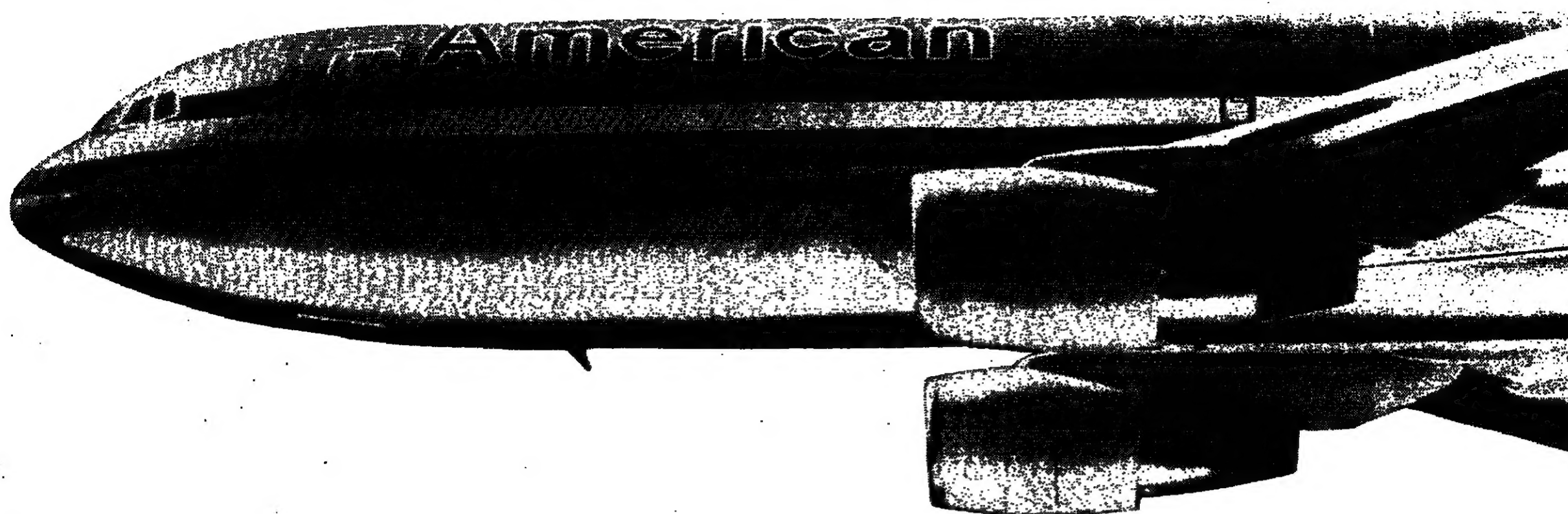
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Heseltine aims for 80% home ownership

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

PLANS to extend home-ownership to 80 per cent of the population were outlined by Michael Heseltine last night, the environment secretary, as his nationwide rent-to-mortgages scheme would mean people being able to buy their homes for a weekly payment equal to the present rent and said that about 1.5 million council tenants could take advantage of the proposal.

About 69 per cent of the population own their own homes, and Mr Heseltine said that another 10 per cent would become owners. He said the response in pilot schemes justified the faith the government had put in the rent-to-mortgage scheme.

Mr Heseltine told a Conservative news conference: "I put simple question to council tenants — why go on renting your home under Labour when you can own it for the same weekly payment under the Conservatives."

The Tories are planning to publish the scheme, announced in the Conservative manifesto, in a television series. Leaflets issued yesterday give examples of how it would work.

A tenant wishing to buy his home finds it valued at £40,000. Ten years as a tenant would entitle him to a 40 per cent discount under the rent-to-buy legislation. For the same amount of money he is now paying rent he could buy a mortgage of £24,000. The new scheme would enable him to take out a mortgage on 50 per cent of the property.

He could, if he could afford it, pay more than he is currently paying in rent and thus take a larger share of the property. Alternatively he

could gradually step up to full ownership.

Both Mr Heseltine and Tim Yeo, junior environment minister, emphasised the continuing role of a public housing sector. Mr Heseltine said: "Social housing is not an anachronism."

Mr Yeo explained that of four million council homes, about 1.5 million tenants paid their rents in full. The 2.5 million or so who received housing benefit to meet part or all of their rent costs would not be able to take advantage of the new scheme. There would still be a substantial public sector, he said.

Mr Heseltine combined his description of Tory housing plans with a fresh assault on Labour's tax plans. He alleged that if Labour got in mortgages would go up by between £40 and £50 a month because of an immediate 2.5 per cent increase in interest rates upon the election of a Labour government.

Sir George Young, the housing minister, amplified other manifesto plans. Home ownership would be opened up to 1.5 million leaseholders in blocks of flats who would be given the right to buy the freehold of their property; a new right to improve would allow tenants to invest in their homes and be compensated when they moved on.

He promised that pilot schemes allowing housing associations to manage private property would be extended across the country.

By relieving landlords of the day-to-day concerns of letting and by guaranteeing tenants a high standard of management the new scheme would build a bond of trust between landlords and tenants.



All weather friend: Sir Cyril Smith with Elizabeth Lynne, the new Lib Dem candidate for Rochdale, who hopes to succeed Sir Cyril as an MP

Ashdown to demand education spending deal

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

THE Liberal Democrats will insist on a commitment to a £5.7 billion investment in education before supporting a minority government. Paddy Ashdown said yesterday.

As his party published a guarantee to make education a top spending priority, he said he would not support the Tories or Labour unless they agreed to take on the Liberal Democrats' programme for an immediate and massive injection of funds.

Although his party plans to fund the investment through a 1p rise in the basic rate of

income tax, Mr Ashdown made clear that such an increase was not a condition of negotiations. He said: "Our judgment at the moment is that this can only be done by raising the basic rate of income tax by 1p and we are happy to fight the election on this basis."

There was not room for much "give and take" over the education programme, as he believed that that was an investment Britain must make. The party decided to elevate education to the top of its spending priorities after

reports of its popularity with voters from constituencies on its "hit list". The fresh focus on education is also part of the party's attempt to counter the wasted vote threat, argued during the remainder of the campaign that the more votes and seats it wins, the more likely its education programme will be carried out.

The guarantee, costing £5.7 billion over two years, includes:

- Pre-school places for the under-fives, costing £525 million in the first year.
- School repairs costing £550 million in the first year.
- At least two days a week education for all school-leavers under 19, costing £500 million.
- New books and equipment, plus teacher training and support, costing £200

million in the first year.

Mr Ashdown said: "In government — either on our own or with others — Liberal Democrats will honour this guarantee. A commitment to this programme must be the first spending priority of the next government."

Matthew Taylor, education spokesman, indicated that the Liberal Democrats may have in negotiating post-election deals by criticising Labour and Tory education plans. He said Labour promised £600 million over two years, but nothing in the first year. The Conservative manifesto promised nothing for pre-school education or school repairs, he added.

"Our document launched today highlights the inadequacy of the Tory commitment to education. But we

highlight too Labour's double vision. After years of attacking Tory under-funding, Labour's spending commitment does not match even one of their major education priorities. It means that Labour's manifesto promises are hopes to dream for, not pledges to count on."

The party's document said that wise expenditure on education was a nation's investment in its future. The Liberal Democrats would make that investment, it said, even though that meant incurring costs now. "Our guarantee is that we shall use whatever power the British people give us at this election to ensure that the educational programme set out on these pages is given top priority and the investment to be implemented."

Labour may spend more than the Tories, report says

Defence cuts claim challenged

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A LABOUR government may end up spending more on defence than the Conservatives because of concern over potential job losses in the industry, according to a report published yesterday by the Oxford Research Group.

The Conservatives claim in the election manifesto that Labour plans a 27 per cent reduction in conventional defence spending, leading to "dramatic" cuts in the defence industry. However, Tor Voss, author of the report said that Labour would find it difficult to introduce big defence cuts if it won the election.

His report recalls the pledge made to the defence industry by Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, on November 1 last year in which he said: "No extra jobs would be lost as a result of Labour policies."

The report says: "The historical precedents are that Labour would maintain defence spending, or at least delay reductions, rather than face the unpopularity of substantial lay-offs and closures." The "curious situation" thus arose that future cuts "could

actually be greater under a Conservative government than a Labour one". Labour has promised to set up a defence diversification agency to help to minimise job losses.

The report says that the steady rise in defence spending from 1979 to 1985 appeared to follow the election of the Conservatives but "this was largely the result of the commitment to Nato by the Labour government in 1977 to increase spending by 3 per cent per annum in real

terms". With the end of the Cold War, "rapid and successful adjustment of defence industries" is now crucial for Britain's future economic health.

Yet, so far, the adjustments have taken the form of lay-offs and closures, the report says. There are very few successful cases where companies have switched from military to civilian products.

There is still a widespread belief within the defence industry that it is not possible to convert from military to civil

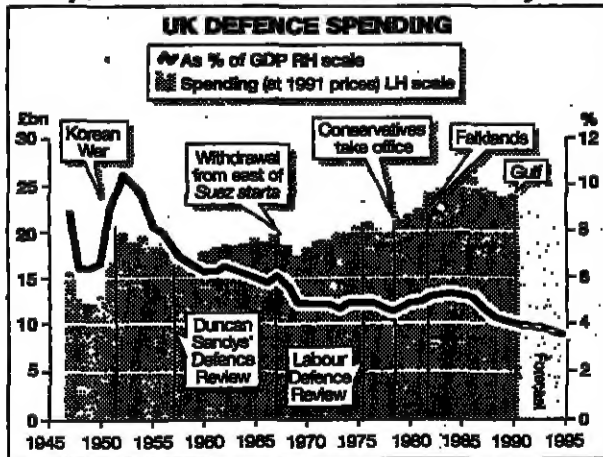
production. "Many companies seem to be fighting for the remaining orders rather than developing new civil opportunities."

The report says that the government has a clear role to play in helping industry to adjust to the defence cuts. One responsibility is to ensure that companies are told in advance which defence projects are no longer required.

Leaving open the possibility of procurement programmes leads companies to hang on in hope rather than to follow vigorously the call for conversion," the report says.

The research group says that many of the job cuts and company closures cannot be blamed on the ending of the Cold War. Efficiency drives have contributed to staff cuts. The report says: "It may be convenient to blame the end of the Cold War but the real impacts are yet to be seen."

Converting the Defence Industry: How We the Political Will? (Oxford Research Group, 22 Warborough Road, Oxford OX2 6JA, £10)



Major pitches for the doggie vote

Under pressure from Norman Tebbit to unleash the dogs of war, the prime minister made for Melton Mowbray yesterday in search of sustenance for his warriors.

The Leicestershire town is noted for its pork pies, but John Major was after something juicier — Pedigree Chum, perhaps? He found it in a railway marshalling yard pioneering the switch from road to rail. Lined up before him were a fleet of wheeled containers, each containing a mountain of pet food regarded as something of a delicacy in the animal world.

Pedigree Chum, Whiskas, Kit-E-Kat, and Trill. Mr Major started to look interested. Perhaps, however, his advisers had told him to keep off the subject of dogs after Margaret Thatcher's reminder that some Crufts champions never die.

The media circus had other breeds on its mind: Rottweiler Heseltine, Boxer Clarke and Pitbull Mellor.

Did the prime minister have a dog? Mr Tebbit was in for a disappointment. "I would love to have a dog, but it would not be fair on the dog," Mr Major said, before pitching for the RSPCA vote by explaining that a life-style of shuffling between Downing Street, Great Stukeley and Chequers left little time for Fido.

The kennel door, however, was still

Petfood, aircraft and a workplace ballot caught John Major's attention yesterday.
Nicholas Wood writes

Major, and the resurrected Crufts champion was still dogging her successor. Radio Leicester wanted to know whether Mrs Thatcher had been recalled to revive a flagging campaign.

"Absolutely ludicrous," Mr Major replied. He had invited her weeks ago to speak at the Tory candidates' conference on Sunday, and she had happily accepted. "Do people think there would have been an election without Mrs Thatcher campaigning?" he said. "They couldn't possibly know her."

Budgerigars seemed a safer bet as Norma Major pulled the lever and 22 tons of Trill started to leave its perch. "It's a lot of pet food," Mr Major said admiringly. "There's some pretty overweight budgerigars you're going to have."

Earlier, Mr Major had stepped from one plane at East Midlands International Airport and climbed on board another. His target was a brand new Boeing 737 leased by British Midland Airways. Neil Kinnock

waved from the cockpit of Concorde last week. Mr Major kept pace by doing likewise from his Boeing.

Sir Michael Bishop, the British Midland chairman, was clearly on the prime minister's side, saying: "Neil Kinnock was on a Concorde on Tuesday and look what happened — the rudder fell off. We're making sure this is not a rudderless campaign."

Steve Collett, a fitter and a wavering Tory voter, was not so sure. Mr Collett, aged 37, of Ripley, Derbyshire, unkindly told Mr Major that they would have to fix the aircraft now he had had a go on it.

Among the workers lined up on gantries around the hangar or watching at floor level, John Brown, an engineer, was unimpressed by the Tory attack on Labour's tax plans. "They sit down in London talking about how people on over £22,000 a year will be hit, that's irrelevant to us because we are fighting for £12,000," he said. "If they carry on hitting at that, their campaign is off the rails."

There was better news for Mr Major in an airport workshop. A ballot of workers had produced a 50-50 split between Tory and Labour supporters, one sign that the C2 vote has not deserted the government. As the prime minister headed north for Sheffield, he was still in the hunt.

Cricket highlights for BBC

THE television election battle will take a backseat tomorrow when highlights of England's World Cup cricket final against Pakistan will be shown on BBC.

British Sky Broadcasting has bowed to pressure from politicians and the public and is to allow the BBC to show 30 minutes of highlights from the cricket World Cup final tomorrow evening. Before the announcement was made last night, Neil Kinnock had again urged the prime minister to ensure that everyone in Britain could watch the final. BSkyB, which has exclusive rights to cover the World Cup, has decided to let the BBC screen free of charge excerpts from the final in *Sportnight* at 10pm tomorrow night.

Owen for EC

Dr David Owen, the former SDP leader, who is not standing at this election, will make his only speech of the campaign today at the Future of Europe Conference in London. He will suggest that Europe should be a dominant election issue.

Punching home

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, unveiled a Tory poster during a visit to Birmingham. It shows two boxing gloves, one labelled "Kinnock's Fist" and the other "Hattersley's Citron", with the caption: "Thanks a bunch. Labour is the last thing Brummies need."

Minute wisdom

Politicians will be given 60 seconds of BBC Radio 1 air time from Thursday for a series of brief manifestos. "If they go over time, they will simply be faded out," Simon Mayo, the disc jockey, said.

Minister bitten

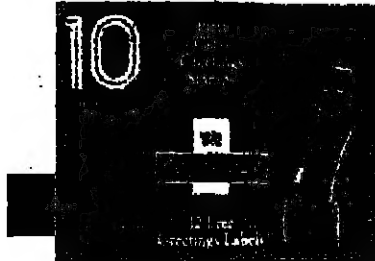
Nicholas Bennett, a Welsh Office minister, was recovering yesterday after a dog bit him on the ankle while he was canvassing in Pembroke.

'Karaoke' Neil

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, last night called the Labour party leader "Karaoke Kinnock". He said: "He'll sing any song you want him to. Just press the button and out comes the line to take, inspired not by guiding principles, but by the fleeting fads of the moment."



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Patten pins his hopes on facts that are not borne out by the figures

Leading Conservatives claim that their private polls show them level pegging with Labour. They are well content. At the start of the campaign, advisers told John Major that the results meant a comfortable majority. The party chairman, Chris Patten, has described them as a "terrific base for us to go forward". Mr Patten is being remarkably confident, even allowing for campaign hyperbole. Should he be?

Conservative confidence is built on the assumption that conventional uniform-swing predictions underestimate the number of seats the Conservative will win because, it is claimed, the swing to Labour is lower in Conservative

Ivor Crewe examines whether Tories really have the upper hand in seats where Labour is hot on their heels

marginals than elsewhere. But there are no convincing reasons, precedents or data to support that claim.

First, why should Conservative marginals be different? Socially they are neither distinctive nor homogenous enough to respond differently from the rest of the country to political events. Some Conservatives claim that they have superior organisations in the marginals. Such claims are deeply suspect. For one thing, constituency organisation counts for next to nothing

in the television age. For another, no link has been found between constituency results and constituency organisations which, it is claimed, have improved.

Nor are there convincing precedents. In past elections the swing in Conservative marginals has been very similar to the national swing. In 1987, it was fractionally lower (0.9 per cent in the 50 most marginal Conservative-Labour seats, compared with 1.7 per cent nationally) but that was largely due to the "in-

cumbency effect". Each Conservative MP first elected in 1983 replaced the personal vote of the defeated Labour MP with one of his or her own and so withstood the small swing to Labour in 1987. But that effect was limited to incumbents seeking re-election for the first time. In this election there will be only seven of them defending seats against Labour challengers.

The polling evidence, moreover, is mixed. True, below-average swings in Conservative-Labour marginals of 3 to 4 per cent have been reported for February by Mori and for the four weeks to mid-March by Gallup. These compare with national

swings of 6 per cent and would preclude Labour becoming even the largest party. However, in NOP's recent poll of marginals the swing to Labour was an above average 7.5 per cent and in Mori's poll last weekend of ten Con-

servative marginals in the Yorkshire Television region, it was 8.5 per cent — enough to give Labour an overall majority if repeated nationwide.

An analysis commissioned by *The Times* casts fresh doubt on Tory claims. Mori's

polls for last year were aggregated to produce a national sample of 25,000 respondents, of whom 3,400 live in Tory-Labour marginals. The advantage of this large sample is that the margins of error (plus or minus 2 per cent) are half those for the smaller samples interviewed by Mori, Gallup and NOP last month.

In the country as a whole the swing to Labour was 6 per cent. In Conservative-Labour marginals the swing was the same: 6 per cent. Nor do regional patterns offer much joy to the Conservatives. In Greater London, where there is supposedly a residual loony left effect, the swing to Labour

was 5 per cent. In the North-west, where the Conservative vote is said to be holding up it was 9.5 per cent and in the allegedly pivotal West Midlands, 10 per cent.

Granted, the survey was completed by the end of the year. Mori has, however, examined its polls since March 5 to see if voters in marginal seats are behaving differently from voters generally. They are not. The swing to Labour since 1987 in 50 seats is 8 per cent, slightly greater than the national swing. Conservatives would clearly be foolish to bank on doing better in their marginals than elsewhere.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University

Northern marginals stay unswayed by Tories' tax message

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Conservative campaign on Labour's tax policies is making little impact in Northern marginal seats, according to a Mori poll. The survey of ten Northern and Midlands marginals offers no support for the theory that the Conservatives are doing better in marginal seats than they are in the country at large.

The Mori survey, covering the ten Tory-held marginals of Batley & Spen (Elizabeth Peacock), Calder Valley (Sir Donald Thompson), Colne

Valley (Graham Riddick), Elmet (Spencer Batiste), Keighley (Gary Waller), Leeds North East (Timothy Kirkhope), Lincoln (Kenneth Carlisle), Sherwood (Andrew Stewart), York (Conal Gregory) and High Peak (where Christopher Hawkins has retired), shows an overall pro-Labour swing across the ten seats of 8.5 per cent, a big enough movement to put Neil Kinnock in Downing Street if it were to be repeated on a uniform basis nationwide.

At the last election in the

ten seats the share of the vote was: Conservatives 44 per cent, Labour 35 per cent, Alliance 20 per cent, others 1 per cent. That compared with a national share of Conservatives 43 per cent, Labour 32 per cent, Alliance 23 per cent and others 2 per cent.

The Mori survey of 1,059 adults, conducted face-to-face on Friday and Saturday last week, measured support at Conservatives 38 per cent, Labour 46 per cent and Liberal Democrats 14 per cent. That puts Labour's share up 11 percentage points, with the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats both down six points. In Colne Valley and Leeds North East, the Alliance was second last time. In the other eight seats Labour was the runner-up at the general election in 1987.

What will alarm Conservative strategists about the poll finding is that when respondents were asked which party's policies they preferred on a number of issues they put Labour and Conservatives equal at 37 per cent on the question of taxation. That is clear evidence that, despite a week of hard campaigning concentrated on Labour's tax policies, the Conservatives are failing to get their message over.

Labour is also in the lead on the three issues named by poll respondents as most important to them. The party leads 52-26 on health, 45-26 on education and 47-21 on unemployment.

John Major has a clear lead over Neil Kinnock when people were asked which was the party leader they thought likely to make the most capable prime minister. He scores 41 per cent to 29 per cent for Mr Kinnock. But the Tory margin on who has the best team of leaders is much narrower at 37 per cent to 33. On which party has the best policies for the country, Labour scores 35 per cent to 33 per cent for the Conservatives.

The poll indicates that many of those who live in a marginal constituency are unaware that they do so. Of those questioned, 40 per cent said that they did live in a marginal constituency, 26 per cent said that they did not, believing that their MP had won easily last time. A further 34 per cent did not know.

Mori interviewed adults aged 18-plus on behalf of Yorkshire Television's *Calendar* programme across the Yorkshire Television region. Within each constituency quotas were set by age, sex, class and working status to reflect the composition of that constituency.



Labour claims win in postal vote race

By David Young

MORE than a million people are estimated to have registered for postal votes in the general election, with Labour claiming that it has done better than the Conservatives.

The deadline for registering was noon yesterday, with initial estimates indicating that the 950,000 votes cast by post in the last election, in 1987, could be exceeded by more than 10 per cent. The Conservatives have been traditionally more successful than Labour in this area. But this year Labour has canvassed postal voters in many key marginal constituencies.

It has also capitalised on the fact that the election is being held during the Easter university vacation by advising students that if they live in a safe Labour constituency and attend college in a constituency which is marginal, they should vote there by post.

Labour says it has persuaded 20,000 student supporters to register for postal votes. This means that in the Tory marginal of Stirling, for example, the number of student postal votes will exceed the Tory majority of 948. Julie Minns, of the National Organisation of Labour Students, said: "The Tories have scored two own-goals. Far from disfranchising students by holding the election during the vacation, they have ensured that their supporters will not be voting and that thousands of students studying in safe Labour seats will now vote at home in Tory marginals."

Tory agents have been woo-

ing expatriate voters as well as traditional postal voters in their constituencies, such as the elderly and infirm. In 1989 the law was changed, extending the right to vote to expatriates who had lived abroad for up to 20 years. Previously it was five years. About 34,400 voters — the vast majority Conservative supporters — have applied for overseas votes.

Many expatriates are not fully up to date with developments on the British political scene, however. A survey by the television programme *World in Action* found expatriates in South Africa who had no idea who Paddy Ashdown was, but thought "he might be an Irishman".

The programme also found that there are growing numbers of people who have not registered for votes either because they are avoiding the poll tax or because they are homeless. In Hampstead and Highgate, north London, where the actress Glenda Jackson is hoping to overturn a Conservative majority of 2,221, the register has fallen by 4,677.



Child's play: Diane Abbott, Labour candidate for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, on the campaign trail with her five-month-old son, James. With her safe 7,678 majority, Ms Abbott does not have to worry too much about kissing other people's babies to woo voters

Key Welsh seats swing to Labour

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR is making important gains at the expense of the Tories and the Liberal Democrats in key Welsh seats, an opinion poll published yesterday indicates.

An NOP survey for HTV conducted in marginal seats showed a big swing to Labour in constituencies where it and the Conservatives are the main protagonists, although the Conservative vote is holding up better in the three-way marginals where either the Lib Dems or Plaid Cymru are also strong contenders. About 650 voters were interviewed in six seats held narrowly by Conservative or Labour: Delyn, Clywd SW, Pembroke, Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouth and Newport West.

The results indicated a huge move to Labour since the general election in 1987. Labour's vote was up from 36 per cent to 53 per cent, and the Conservatives' down from 42 per cent to 32 per cent. The Liberal Democrat vote was down from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. The swing to Labour was smaller but still substantial when its successes in the by-elections in Monmouth and Vale of Glamorgan in the last Parliament were taken into account. The poll suggests Labour could

even hold on to Monmouth, seen as a safe Tory seat after 1987.

The most intriguing battle-ground centres on the three-way marginals where the Liberal Democrats have a strong interest. NOP surveyed three: Conwy, Cardiff Central and Brecon and Radnor, held by Richard Lacey for the Liberal Democrats. The survey indicates that the Conservatives are down two

points, from 37 per cent to 35 per cent, compared with 1987. Labour up 6 per cent, from 28 to 34 per cent, and the Liberal Democrats down from 32 per cent to 27 per cent.

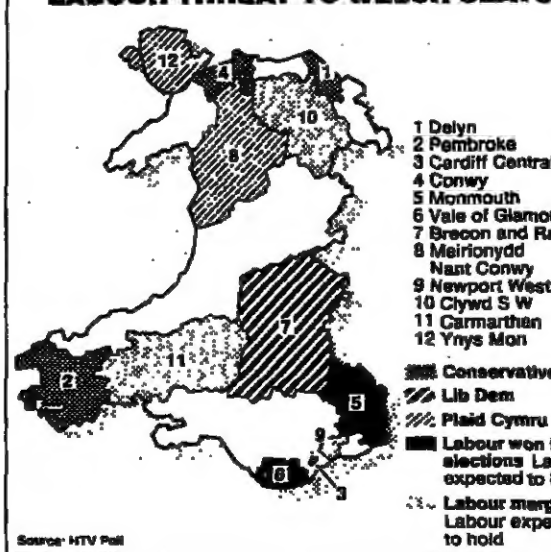
The closest fight could come at Brecon where a separate NOP survey last week suggested that only five percentage points covered all three parties, with the Liberal Democrats on 35 per cent.

the Conservatives on 32 per cent and Labour on 30 per cent. The poll suggests that Labour poses the biggest threat to the Tories in Cardiff Central with both the Opposition parties vying to be the main challenger at Conwy.

Three of the seats surveyed were Plaid Cymru strongholds: Ynys Mon, Merioneth and Carmarthen. Here the Labour vote was up from 23 per cent to 30 per cent compared with 1987, the Tory vote up two points to 32 per cent from 30 per cent, and the Plaid Cymru vote down from 35 per cent to 28 per cent. The figures suggest that Plaid would hold Ynys Mon and Merioneth, and Labour would keep Carmarthen.

Barry Jones, Labour's shadow Welsh secretary, said that the "very encouraging" poll confirmed party workers' findings. Michael German, the Welsh Liberal Democrats' campaign director, dismissed it as "a complete dog's breakfast" and claimed that a sample of only 125 voters had been taken in each constituency. "This poll has many faults. You would need a degree in convoluted statistics just to be able to understand the premise on which it was taken," he said.

LABOUR THREAT TO WELSH SEATS



Prison candidate finds more honour among thieves

By Kerry Gill

A prisoner (C292) was led to his cell by No 10, not bad omen for Tommy Sheridan, the sole Scottish Militant Labour candidate, who is fighting Labour's 18,000 majority in Glasgow Pollok from Saughton Prison, Edinburgh.

Housed in a section known as "training for freedom", his acquaintances are mostly murderers and armed robbers preparing for release. "I can tell you this," he said. "The honesty and decency of these people is far superior than what I expect to confront me in Parliament."

Sheridan, leader of the anti-poll tax federation, was jailed for six months for defying a court order banning him from attending Scotland's first warrant sale for a poll tax debt. If he behaves himself, and yesterday he said that he would, he will be free to enter Parliament, if not No 10, on July 1. Under the Representation of the People Act, the prison authorities are obliged to give a civil prisoner facilities to stand for an election. De-

spite the formidable majority enjoyed by Labour, Sheridan, aged 27, launched his party manifesto inside the jail saying: "I firmly expect to be sitting on the green leather seats of the House of Commons instead of a prison chair."

At his first press conference Sheridan gave a résumé of his daily routine. He is wakened at 6.30 by the "passman" for his porridge. Afterwards he watches the breakfast news, opens an average of 22 letters each day from well wishers and supporters, and reads the newspapers. He must be one of the best informed candidates in Britain.

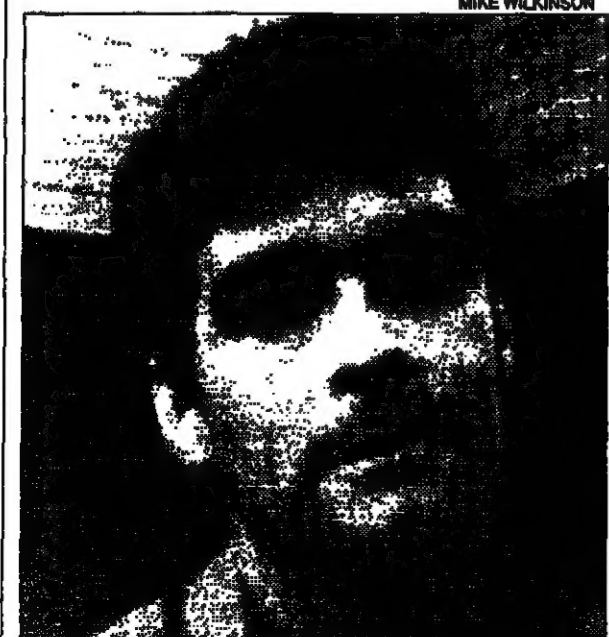
From 11.30 he invites interviews from the press. He has a portable telephone to keep in touch with party activists and journalists, and has access to the prison fax machine. In the afternoon, Sheridan continues writing press releases lambasting the crisis of capitalist society.

He spent seven days having to "slop out" in D hall before his sentence was upheld after appeal. He praised the inmates and prison officers: "I get no stash [aggravation] whatsoever. I have

received nothing but warm-hearted support. Many of the prisoners recognise that they are economic conscripts of the establishment." He missed female company, socialising, campaigning, and football in that order.

His manifesto backs the return of a Labour government, the defeat of Glasgow Pollok's Labour member Jimmy Dunnachie notwithstanding, the establishment of a Scottish parliament, a 35-hour working week and a minimum wage. The party calls for a crash programme of council house building and improvements and a cut in mortgage interest rates. All poll tax debts would be abolished, council services would be restored and the privatisation of the National Health Service reversed.

Sheridan, a graduate in economics and politics from Stirling University, claimed credit for smashing the poll tax. "We led the anti-poll-tax struggle and we were responsible for toppling the most despised character in iron capitalism — we melted the Iron Lady," he said.



Sheridan: equipped with portable telephone, fax machine and support from fellow inmates

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Time is running out for Moscow's dream of a commonwealth



Shaposhnikov: no cash to pay the troops

THE 11 republics of the former Soviet Union which make up the Commonwealth of Independent States have now held three summit meetings at which the main issues were either removed from the agenda or left unresolved. Each time the participants have found it harder to find peripheral points of agreement to disguise their failure.

The Kiev summit, held last Friday, is the first not to have been followed by the immediate publication of any summit documents, even though seven documents were signed by a majority of participants. There seems no longer the will to pretend that agreement encompasses more than it really does.

Yesterday, Russian and Kazakh leaders met to try to mend fences, fighting continued in Moldova and Nagorno Karabakh, and President

Kravchuk of Ukraine came under pressure to pull his country out of the commonwealth altogether. As yet, the 11 states have no military budget, even though in theory they have an army, or parts of an army, in common. They have no agreement on preserving economic ties or co-ordinating economic policy. They have no agreement on a formal division of former Soviet property, military and civilian, and they have no agreed definition of "strategic forces" — those parts of the former Soviet armed forces, including all the nuclear forces, that are to be kept together under central command.

These are all highly complex and contentious issues and require time and intricate negotiation. In one form or another, they have figured at each commonwealth sum-

The conflicting priorities of former Soviet republics are proving irreconcilable, Mary Dejevsky and Bruce Clark write from Moscow

Yet the possibility of reaching acceptable compromises seems to become more remote with each meeting. The two biggest states, Russia and Ukraine, continue to be divided by the divergent considerations that led them to found the commonwealth in the first place. Ukraine joined the three-republic Slavonic alliance, as a means of escaping the Soviet Union. Russia saw the alliance as a way of keeping Ukraine in check.

Now, whether the two republics are discussing economic co-operation, the military budget or the strategic forces, those conflicting priorities make agreement unlikely. The smaller republics line up with or against Russia, depending on whether political or economic considerations prevail. The commonwealth as a grouping is being rapidly overtaken by events.

With only days to go before the commonwealth enters the second quarter of the year without a military budget, Russia said last night it was preparing a two-way accord with Kazakhstan on defence and other issues. The statement marked the latest sign that the former Soviet republics were falling back on bilateral arrangements because of the crumbling of the commonwealth as a whole. Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commonwealth armed forces chief, confirmed yesterday that no military budget had been agreed for the second quarter because the acutely sensitive issue of how to define "strategic forces" — which automatically come under joint control — had not been settled between Russia and Ukraine.

With or without agreements, the republics are forming their own armies. Having emphasised for months that Russia would be the last republic to form an army of its own, President Yeltsin last week announced the creation of a Russian defence ministry that would pave the way for a Russian army. Kazakhstan immediately responded by declaring

that it was forming its own national guard. Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine, on the other hand, have insisted from the beginning that they wanted their own armies. Belorussia recognised the inevitability of maintaining a small army of its own slightly later. Armenia announced recruitment to its own army at the weekend, at the same time as Moldova decreed that all former Soviet troops on its territory were from now on under Moldavian command.

Russia's decision is the key, however, and means not only that there will probably never be a united commonwealth army, but that the days of the united command of strategic forces could well be numbered. The most cohesive structure likely to emerge is an allied command on the Nato model, and inconsistencies can already be observed in official definitions — between "united", "joint" and "allied" — which suggest the eventual acceptance of an alliance rather than anything more closely bound.

The army is only the most conspicuous area where failure to agree brings the commonwealth closer to the loose grouping of states envisaged by Ukraine than to the state-like structure envisaged by Russia. In Kiev, Russia had to accept another feature of the Ukrainian "model", when it accepted that the commonwealth would not have a single external border, but would have individual state borders. The same is true of the property dispute. The longer that former Soviet property remains subject to no joint agreement, the more likely it is that it will simply be taken over by the republic in which it is located.

The French regional elections

Humbled Socialists court green parties

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

THE ruling Socialist party began licking its wounds yesterday after a drubbing at the hands of French voters which saw its support plummet from 29 per cent to 18.3 per cent. Less than one in five voted Socialist in Sunday's regional elections.

The traditional right-wing alliance — Jacques Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR) and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's Union for French Democracy (UDF) — fared better, with support from a third of the electorate. But though they emerged with the highest level of support, the RPR-UDF total vote percentage dropped by six points compared with the last regional ballot in 1986.

Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front failed to make the huge gains predicted by worried French analysts during the campaign, but the party's share of the vote jumped by a considerable four points: 3.4 million adults — 13.9 per cent of those who voted — believed that the front pro-

posed the best programme for their region. In the Ile de France region, dominated by Paris, the National Front dealt a crushing blow to the Socialists, snatching 37 seats as opposed to 33.

And in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, where Bernard Tapie, with Socialist backing, had vowed to smash the power of the extreme right, the front registered 23.3 per cent popular support against 22.7 for the Socialist-aligned list of candidates. In Alsace, the Socialists trailed the front by 13.3 per cent to 17.2 per cent. M. Le Pen has promised to build on his level of support for the parliamentary elections next year. The National Front, he said yesterday, aims to be in government.

President Mitterrand, also with an eye on next year's election, is already under pressure to dismiss Edith Cresson, his unpopular prime minister. There was renewed speculation last night that she could be replaced within two months, but no indication that a successor had been chosen. Because M. Mitterrand does not like to be perceived as a president who makes decisions under pressure, any change seems unlikely for some weeks.

M. Mitterrand, who has changed the voting system twice since being elected 11 years ago, is likely to do so again before next year's general elections. He has promised "a certain amount" of proportional representation in any new system, but remains tight-lipped on exactly which method will be used.

If the Socialists were the losers in Sunday's election, the real winners turned out to be the ecologist parties. The rival Generation Ecologie and Green parties scored 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent of the popular vote respectively

— a combined total of 14 per cent. In Ile de France, the total ecological vote of 18.4 per cent left the Socialists, National Front and Communists trailing behind. In Alsace-Lorraine and Basque-Normandie, close to one in five voters plumped for green-minded candidates.

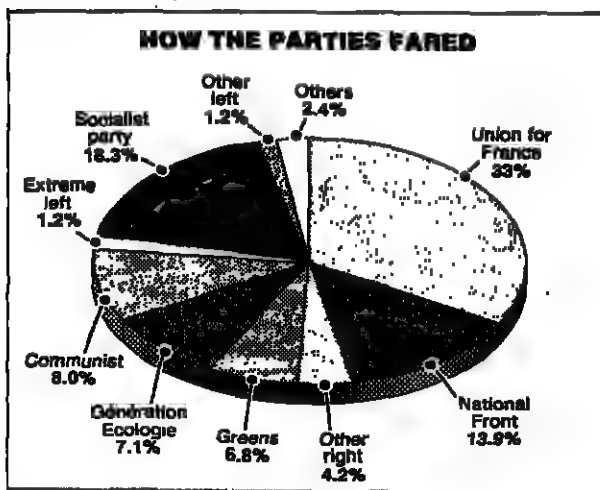
The Communist party's share of the vote fell in every region, but it claimed victory on the ground that the pundits had predicted the party would be practically annihilated. In fact, George Marchais's party dropped only two points, down to 8 per cent of public support.

The other surprise was the turn-out on polling day. Politicians saw abstention rates soar to over 50 per cent in 1988 and 1989 and many had expressed a worry that such a phenomenon last Sunday would benefit the National Front. Newspapers and magazines took a hard line in the five days running up to the ballot, with the influential, left-wing *Le Nouvel Observateur* proclaiming on its front cover: "To abstain is to vote for Le Pen."

The Socialist party repeated this message at every opportunity and was initially delighted with the 70 per cent turn-out, but this did not aid their candidates, though it may have cut the front's percentage. The two green parties and the Communists, it now appears, gained most from the high turnout.

The Socialists last night issued an indirect call to the ecologists, suggesting "progressive alliances" in future elections. The call was not a new one, but in the past it could have been seen as Socialist magnanimity. Yesterday it looked as if they needed a lifeline.

Leading article, page 15



Kirghiz fear struggle to run their own land

FROM JASPER BECKER IN BISHKEK

THE republic of Kirghizia has adopted a new flag, but it is hard to find many people in its capital, Bishkek, who are over-enthusiastic about their new-found independence. "We are just not ready for it. We are too small to survive on our own," an English-speaking receptionist at the Otrar hotel said.

Kirghizia, with four million people and 10 million sheep, was one of the last parts of Central Asia to be annexed by the Russian empire, just over a century ago. The mountainous country on the border with China has never until now existed as an internationally recognised state. Its borders were drawn up in the 1920s by Soviet commissars, and they now include large numbers of Uzbeks and exclude 130,000 Kirghiz over the border in China. Some

now fear, though, that the economic reforms, especially the privatisation of land, small businesses and factories, will trigger off an outbreak of ethnic violence. Less than a year ago 500 people died in fighting between native Kirghiz and Uzbeks at the border town of Osh in the Fergana valley. "A civil war is inevitable if nothing is done to solve the ethnic tensions," a researcher at the Academy of Sciences said.

Most of the inhabitants of this small isolated state are Kirghiz sheep farmers who live outside the urban areas in traditional yurts — round felt-covered tents. The tents are celebrated in the new flag, which has a picture of a yurt against a red background. The industrial economy is, however, controlled by the Russians and other newcom-

ers, while commerce and much of the good farming land is in the hands of the Uzbeks, famed for their mercantile skills.

Akaev Askar, the country's president aged 48, is a liberal



native Kirghiz to take over high positions in the commercial and industrial sectors. He also wants them to be able to take over the running of small shops and restaurants. The fund will also be used to buy up land that would otherwise fall into the hands of the Uzbeks.

The president, as he admitted in an interview, is finding it hard to force the Communist bureaucracy to obey his orders. "There is considerable resistance," he said. He is helping to set up two parties: the Party of Businessmen and the Party of Peasant Landowners. If he fails, some Kirghiz fear the initiative will fall into the lap of nationalists or pro-Islamic activists. One such group has already declared that the country should put "Kirghiz rights above human rights".

Envoy's defence of Islam angers Bonn

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WILFRIED Hofmann, Germany's ambassador to Moscow, is under pressure to resign after writing a robust defence of Islamic fundamentalism. He converted to Islam 13 years ago.

"The preservation of the marriage is also served by the often basically misunderstood instruction of the Koran whereby a man may beat his wife," he writes in *Islam as an Alternative*, which also argues there is nothing wrong in a man having four wives.

The ambassador, aged 61, has only one wife — a Turkish former model called Bülben who had a small part in *From Russia With Love*, the James Bond film. He refuses to say if he has beaten her.

The book also tries to explain why Islamic courts only place half as much importance on the evidence of women — "There are certain days when they can possibly be less reliable" — and why women should not be able to inherit as much as men. It is fully supportive of the Koran's commandments to cut the hands off thieves, and

stoning as another punishment. The book has raised a storm even before publication. After Herr Hofmann defended his views on television last week, the foreign ministry warned him that he must consider the German constitution before making any public statements. The ambassador denies giving any cause for doubt about his support for the constitution, and says his whole aim in writing the book was to prevent the north-south conflict growing through a lack of knowledge of Islam.

Herr Hofmann's good intentions have been lost on Herta and Paul Amirani, deputy leader of the Social Democrats, who have made equal rights for women a cornerstone of policy. She has demanded his recall because "such a man no longer represents our country". She sees his book as the "work of a rather naive German macho, who doesn't even know what it says in our constitution: beatings and violence in marriage are criminal offences. Polygamy carries a two-year prison sentence."

Britain endorses Georgian autonomy

BY MICHAEL BRYSON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND OLLI KIVINEN IN HELSINKI

BRITAIN joined the rest of the European Community yesterday in recognising the independence of the former Soviet republic of Georgia. John Major wrote to Eduard Shevardnadze, the acting head of state and former Soviet foreign minister, confirming the move.

Alone of the 12 former Soviet republics, Georgia remained outside the Commonwealth of Independent States, and was not recognised by the EC when relations were established with the other commonwealth states. During the fighting that followed the revolt against the rule of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the deposed president, the EC withheld recognition as a mark of disapproval of Mr Gamsakhurdia's dictatorial style and because neither side had control of the government.

Since Mr Shevardnadze's return to Tbilisi and the end to the fighting, Britain has been pressing the EC for swift recognition of the country. The Community has been assured that it will respect human rights, provide guarantees for ethnic minorities and will follow democratic procedures.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, wrote yesterday to Aleksandr Chikvaдзе, his Georgian opposite number, offering to establish diplomatic relations. Sir Rodric Braithwaite, the British ambassador in Moscow, is to seek accreditation to Tbilisi also.

In Helsinki, delegates at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe accepted Georgia, Slovenia and Croatia as new members of the human rights monitoring and peacekeeping group.

Today foreign ministers will sign the "open skies" agreement which will allow CSECE participants to conduct surveillance flights over each other's territory.

Joy on wheels as Tirana revels in Democrat victory

Democrats prepare a gentle purge after their big victory in Albania, Anne McElvoy writes from Tirana

The jubilation began in the early morning with a cacophony of car horns, the screech of lorries and victory songs resounding through the usually silent streets of Tirana.

By breakfast time, the city's avenues and squares were filled with revelling supporters of the Democratic party who have swept to a convincing victory over the ruling Socialists. The Democrats, led by the charismatic former heart surgeon, Sali Berisha, one of the founder members of the opposition movement in 1990, have gained about 68 per cent of the vote, the Socialists a mere 22 per cent. The opposition has thus overturned the two-thirds majority which the Socialists secured in Albania's first free elections last March, and the clear margin of victory exceeded even its own expectations.

The Socialists up to now have retained a strong grip on the country's institutions and media which the new government is intent on overturning. A spokesman for the Socialist party admitted that it had suffered a heavy defeat and spoke of the party, the successor to the communists, holding only 32 of the parliament's 140 seats.

Responding to news of the victory, Mr Berisha, his voice hoarse after weeks of campaigning, said: "This is a great day for Albania. The people have had a long night and a deep sleep. They have succeeded in overcoming communist occupation and in walking the path of freedom and democracy."

For 41 years Albanians were forbidden to own private cars. Yesterday they took enthusiastically to their newly acquired wheels to express their high spirits. Cars, motorcycles and

spluttering lorries raced up and down Tirana's main boulevard, accompanied by a host of bicycles.

The passengers flew both their own and the American flag and brandished the blue-and-white banners of the Democratic party. The Italian lorries delivering bread supplies were decorated with flowers as they trundled through towns and villages dispensing the humanitarian aid which keeps Albanians alive.

A convoy of 60 lorries drove into town from Kavaje, south of Tirana, where Mr Berisha has his constituency. There was hardly an unsmiling face to be seen. The Hotel Tirana's chambermaids embraced guests. The breakfast waiters so far forgot themselves as to provide breakfast.

At noon in the main square, the muzzled, reinstated in his mosque since the ban on religion was lifted in 1990, competed with the pop music blaring out to welcome Mr Berisha. The crowd chanted: "Down with Enver Hoxha [the late dictator], down with Ramiz Alia [the country's president], Albania belongs to us." Mr Alia, who held the same post under Hoxha and succeeded him as leader in 1985, is likely to be the first victim of the Democrats' plan to purge the country of old communist influence.

Responding to Socialist fears that he would use his overwhelming mandate to embark on a campaign of retribution against former Communists, he said: "One thing we cannot afford is a taste for revenge. There were so many crimes that to search out perpetrators would leave us with no one to do the searching. The situation is too desperate to waste time in vengeance."

Blacks accuse de Klerk of reneging on cabinet vow

By Gavin Bell in Johannesburg and our foreign staff

BLACK leaders in South Africa were furious last night after President de Klerk's government failed to offer them an immediate say in the government of the country.

A first round of post-referendum negotiations ended in stalemate, with black leaders rejecting an offer of a limited advisory role in the first phase of an interim government. The African National Congress and its allies described the plan as a system of "toy telephones" which left all power in the hands of the ruling National party. Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, accused Pretoria of reneging on an agreement two weeks ago to form a multiracial cabinet pending a new constitution.

The National party proposed that a number of transitional councils be established by the negotiating parties, which would make recommendations on new legislation. The present cabinet and parliament, from which blacks are excluded, would remain in office until the election of a transitional government.

The ANC said the proposals were "objectionable in many fundamental respects". It and its allies said the councils would have no powers to carry out decisions reached at the multiparty negotiating forum, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), and the present government could veto their recommendations.

Government sources said yesterday the ANC had compromised its full participation in the executive by insisting on joint control without joint responsibility. They said the National party's proposals represented a compromise.

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Snowbound: Senator Edward Kennedy and Victoria Reggie, his fiancée, caught in a snow shower as they attended a reception for President Gorbachev in Boston, where the Roman Catholic hierarchy opposes their marriage

Lockerbie pair to be given to Arab League

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

LIBYA has agreed to hand over two of its citizens, suspected of blowing up a PanAm stricken, to the Arab League. It was reported last night that the Arab League, which is now in session in Tunis, has agreed to accept the two suspects. The League's secretary-general, Boutros Boutros Ghali, said the League would accept the two suspects on the condition that they be tried in a court of law. The League also agreed to accept the two suspects on the condition that they be tried in a court of law.

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Clinton booted for playing at segregated club

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

A ROUND of golf at a whites-only club brought Bill Clinton problems as he prepared for today's Connecticut primary. He was booted by black voters as he fought off personal attacks from his remaining challenger, Jerry Brown.

Mr Clinton quickly apologised for playing last week at the Little Rock country club where he has privileges as governor. He said he would not play there again until it was integrated.

Mr Brown attacked the "hypocrisy" of a man who presented himself as a friend of the Afro-American community but had done nothing for them. "Even George Bush wouldn't dare play golf at an all-white club," he said.

In New Haven, Connecticut, Mr Clinton had the tough task of addressing a mainly black audience which had been "warmed up" by Mr Brown and the Rev Jesse Jackson. Mr Brown raised cheers by saying that he would ask Mr Clinton to be his running mate. Mr Clinton, who had marched to mark six recent shooting deaths, was booed when he first appeared. He did not mention his game, preferring to echo Lincoln at Gettysburg. "It is for us to try to sanctify these lives that we come to mourn."

The aim of the Brown campaign is to keep the contest alive by attracting blacks and former Paul Tsongas supporters with attacks on Mr Clinton. Yesterday Mr Brown called his rival "the greatest bluffer to enter American politics in my lifetime" and

accused him of wanting "a politburo-type, one-candidate strategy for the Democratic party."

After Connecticut the battle will move to New York where the level of insults looks set to reach new heights. The New York Times yesterday predicted that its home city would host "perhaps the meanest primary campaign yet".

Mr Brown has made much of a photograph of Mr Clinton and black inmates, taken at a work-camp alternative to prison during the Georgia primary. "What's the message of that?" he asked an audience on Sunday. "He's saying: we have them under control, folks, don't worry."

Connecticut voters have been cheated of the primary they would have liked today. The withdrawal of Mr Tsongas and the decision by Patrick Buchanan to halt his personal attacks on George Bush has brought a reduction in drama and national attention. A low turnout is expected, despite local fears of the declining defence industries and the loss of jobs.

Mr Clinton continued yesterday to come under fire from journalists investigating his record. According to the Los Angeles Times, he lobbied legislators in 1986 to approve a state contract for a political backer who later pleaded guilty to cocaine possession. This is the latest of several charges, none of which have attracted the electorate in the way that earlier sex and draft-dodging allegations did.

Muckraking, page 14

Toll rises after Kurdish clashes

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

THE weekend's official death toll in the Kurdish provinces of southeast Turkey rose to 40 yesterday when it was announced that a soldier and a policeman had died during fighting in the town of Sirnak.

Musafa Malay, Sirnak's provincial military governor, said that all official buildings had been damaged during attacks by the guerrillas of the Workers' Party of Kurdistan who took over the town centre on Sunday night. The army had later captured the buildings and the guerrillas had used as their headquarters, he said, and arrested large numbers of "terrorists".

A curfew imposed in Sirnak on Saturday, when 13 people died during celebrations

marking Nawruz, the Kurdish new year, was extended, as it was in a number of towns in 11 provinces which have been under emergency rule since 1980. Agence France-Presse put the death toll at a minimum of 53, adding that some of the dead might have been buried secretly to avoid reprisals against their families. At least 200 were said to have been injured.

In Diyarbakir, the ancient capital of Kurdistan, a Turkish newspaper, *Suz*, said the military had set fire to at least 50 houses in Sirnak. No figure was available for any civilian casualties. In an interview with Ankara's left-wing newspaper, *Milliyet*, Abdullah Ocalan, a former lawyer who

leads the workers' party, said that this new year heralded the beginning of the liberation of the Kurds. "From now on, every day will be Nawruz," he said. From his training base in the Bekaa valley of eastern Lebanon, he told the newspaper that the workers' party had more than 10,000 guerrillas.

Mr Ocalan founded the Marxist party in 1984 with the aim of achieving an independent state for the estimated 20 million Kurds in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Since then, some 3,300 people have died in clashes between his guerrillas and the security forces of Turkey and in reprisals carried out by both sides on alleged

collaborators.

Bible Belt salutes Shamir over settlements

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

FOR a few moments yesterday Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's hard-pressed prime minister, was able to block out the harsh realities of his government's worsening predicament at home and abroad, when he enjoyed a rapturous reception from a group of visiting fundamentalist Christians from America's Bible Belt.

Putting aside his falling popularity in the opinion polls, dire economic problems, attacks on Israeli diplomats abroad and worsening relations with America, Mr Shamir enjoyed the increasingly rare sensation of being applauded by an American

audience for his uncompromising stand over the occupied territories.

"We have been asked to stop building villages and homes in Judea and Samaria," the Israeli leader told the evangelists, using the biblical names for the occupied West Bank. "With all respect, I have to say we cannot agree... There can only be one meaning to this demand: it is an attempt to undermine Israel's borders and the ultimate status of the areas in question in advance of negotiations. This little country is all that we have—and it is ours."

The message may have been well received by the hundreds of pro-Zionist Christians, but a very different picture on the current state of US-Israeli relations was emerging only a few miles away where Pentagon investigators were conducting their second day of inspections to verify whether the Jewish state has been illegally exporting American military technology, donated to Israel as part of the annual \$1.8 billion (\$1.05 billion) in military aid.

Whether or not the allegations prove to be correct, the inspections have left an indelible stain on an alliance which used to be one of the most unshakable in the world, but which today is

lurching from one confrontation to another.

Beirut: A gun battle between Lebanese police and the Syrian army yesterday killed two Syrian soldiers, wounded two and brought into question Syria's role in Lebanon (Ali Jaber writes).

Radio reports said police clashed with vegetable sellers parking their carts on prohibited space on the southern highway leading to Beirut. But a security source said the police opened fire on a Syrian major and five of his bodyguards who tried to protect the vendors. The major was seriously wounded and two of his bodyguards killed.

PEOPLE

Midler wins right to her own voice

THE United States Supreme Court has upheld a \$400,000 (about £230,350) award to the singer-actress Bette Midler from the Young and Rubicam advertising agency, which used a "soundalike" singer for a Ford television commercial. The award had been made by a Los Angeles jury, which found that Midler's exclusive right to her vocal style had been violated.

Former African presidents are to form a Council of Elders to tackle the continent's perennial conflicts. The decision was taken at a meeting in Tanzania attended by former presidents Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

The tarmac at Auckland airport had to be steam-cleaned twice before the Pope could kiss the ground on arrival in New Zealand, the former prime minister, David Lange, has disclosed. Mr Lange said the area was used by race horses flown from Australia.

The Marquess of Bath, aged 87, has been taken to hospital with chest and influenza problems.

Fred Trueman is backing a campaign by Lancastrians who want to return to Yorkshire. He is to deliver a 2,500-name petition from people living in Barnoldswick on the border between the two counties to the Campaign for Real Yorkshire, based in York.

The Vatican said it was still considering a request by Princess Caroline of Monaco for an annulment of her first marriage, to Philippe Junot.



Princess Caroline: wait for annulment

Police torture

London: Indian police routinely torture suspects in prison, where hundreds have died from beatings, and women are regularly raped in cells. Amnesty International said in a report. Despite a clear pattern of people being tortured to death, "at the highest political level successive governments have flatly denied that torture takes place, much less done anything to stop it," it said. Victims, including pregnant women and children, were almost all poor. (AFP)

Paradise lost

Rio de Janeiro: A poll has found that 78 per cent of Brazilians think their country a "corruption paradise". More than three out of four think that the authorities are not doing enough to punish offenders. (Reuters)

Final act

Baltimore: A performer dressed as an alien representing the evil of drugs died after fireworks strapped to his chest blew up instead of sending out a shower of sparks during an intermission at a truck show. (AP)

TUNIS NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Time and money running out for the PLO old guard

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has forfeited more than \$100 million (£59 million) from Saudi Arabia in retaliation for backing Iraq in the Gulf war, thereby provoking its most serious internal trouble since being driven from Lebanon by Israel in 1982.

Work at its headquarters in Tunis has ground to a virtual halt because of lack of cash, and since October the ageing leadership here has been marginalised by the refusal of Israel to permit it to play a direct role in the new Middle East peace process. "I used to have a budget of \$200,000 a month, now I do not have a cent," said Ahmed Abdulrahman, the organisation's director of information. "We have nothing to do, because we do not even have the money to produce a single poster."

Mr Abdulrahman disclosed in an interview in his

heavily guarded villa that since the Gulf confrontation started in August 1990, the PLO has lost funds totalling \$6 million a month. "There is no production inside the PLO any more," he stated.

An emergency meeting of the central council has been called in Tunis early next month in a desperate attempt to devise ways of persuading the oil-rich Gulf states to resume funding the PLO. "What has happened is that we have been nearly closed down, as Israel always wanted, yet it is being done by other Arab states," Mr Abdulrahman said. "We are going to appeal for a change of heart from Saudi Arabia, for a new page to be turned and the past to be forgotten."

So far the Saudis have shown no enthusiasm for forgiving the Palestinians, and Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, was snubbed when he attempted a reconciliation

with the Saudi crown prince during a recent Islamic summit in Senegal. Salaries are still being paid to most of the 2,000 PLO staff in Tunisia despite the fact that many are not working. But it is feared these



Arafat's bride worry: Suha Tawil, aged 28

payments will soon dry up if new sources of funding are not found. Offices abroad are being severely trimmed and other cuts made. The cash problem has been matched by fundamen-

tal questions about the PLO's role, with many younger members feeling that its structure as an old-style national liberation movement is outdated and increasingly irrelevant. The old faces here, being challenged by new ones, like Hanan Ashrawi, from within the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to about one-third of the six million Palestinian community.

"The PLO is increasingly split into those 'inside' the occupied territories and those 'outside' who are feeling more and more left out but have little room for manoeuvre," a senior Western envoy said. "There is a feeling that the Tunis leadership is retreating further and further to the sidelines."

Although lip service is being paid to the PLO's role as the puppet master pulling the strings of the Palestinians sitting down at the negotiating tables, moves to

establish Palestinian autonomy inside the West Bank and Gaza are expected to erode further the position of the "outsiders". The new malaise is easily detected among the bored and idle officials scattered in expensive villas in coastal suburbs on the outskirts of Tunis. Reports in the Egyptian press that the PLO is considering moving to Yemen, as part of its austerity programme and because of growing Tunisian government restrictions, are being denied.

Mr Arafat, deeply embarrassed by the publicity given to his secret marriage to a young aide aged 28, has refused to give any interviews for the past two months. Officials say that, although his personal position remains unassailable, he is under increasing pressure to democratise the PLO organisation and streamline it.

Skin-deep politics deter Tamil Nadu defectors

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MADRAS

J. JAYALALITHA, the chief minister of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, is ensuring her followers' loyalty by encouraging them to tattoo her image on their arms.

Some cabinet ministers have complied, thus avoiding the possibility of a sudden break in their political careers. Mass tattooings are now under way among the village poor.

Over a thousand poor women in a housing complex in Madras, the state capital, lined up to have Ms Jayalalitha's image put on their arms by a tattooist using a rickety, battery-driven machine. Many cried with pain. The tattooist, ignoring the Aids scare, did not bother to change the blunted needle and went home with his pockets bulging with money.

The tattoo is Tamil Nadu's symbol of political sycophancy. A previous chief minister, known only as MGR, ordered his supporters to brand them-

selves to stop them defecting to rival parties. Ms Jayalalitha is not being so obvious, but the tactic message is clear enough.

Some are not content to stop at this gesture of commitment. K.A. Sengottayan, a state minister, pulled a gold-plated carriage around the Mariamman temple in Madras to invoke divine blessings for his boss, not to mention possible favours for himself. Another minister, D. Jayalumar, had the walls from Ms Jayalalitha's house to the party secretariat plastered with big posters in praise of the "living legend".

The party has four million paid-up members and the chief minister has observed these obeisances silently, but with evident satisfaction. She is riding a wave of popularity, in large measure because of her all-out drive against the Tamil Tigers, accused of murdering Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister.

Woodrow Wyatt

The civil war between the Puritans and Cavaliers is not over

Only 17 days to go and the bookmakers make Labour favourites. "If they can't get it right in 13 years they never will," Neil Kinnock says. The Tories are failing to convince that they did get it right, also that the lowering of interest rates which caused the post-1987 boomerang boom was backed by John Smith.

Mr Smith's recipe for recovery is to raise the budget deficit even higher and increase the Tories' public spending. He would also puny tax the modestly prosperous. Yet he mysteriously claims that his costly tax rearrangements would make 80 per cent of families better off, so blowing to bits his argument that government borrowing should not be used to finance tax cuts. The Civil War between the Puritans and the Cavaliers has never ended. It causes conflict within the minds of almost every individual. The outright Puritans are more comfortable with Labour, the Cavaliers with the Conservatives.

Labour's charge that the Cavaliers have had much too jolly a time since 1979 and should now be walloped by higher taxes, supposedly to benefit the less fortunate, has some appeal. If it were true that spending much more than the government plans on, say, the NHS and education, would actually improve them, it might be justified. But the record proves that under Labour most extra spending has a zero or negative effect. Another tier of bureaucracy would be reintroduced into health care. The over more successful Trust Hospitals within the NHS would be abolished. Pay for the powerful NHS unions to which Labour is in hock would soar, as would overmanning. The NHS, which now provides a remarkably good service, would end up providing a far worse one at much greater cost.

A similar disaster would befall Labour's boasted extra spending on education. Schools now running their own budgets would be forbidden to do so. The education reforms would be reversed, and extra spending from the centre would be more than swallowed up by reductions in efficiency and standards.

This would delight the Puritans but dismay the guilt-ridden Cavaliers, who would wonder, too late, why they had used their votes to let it happen. Labour opposes the "immorality" of making money through owning shares. So the newly-privatised industries would be hobbled, to become as profitless as possible. Labour has resisted every move to widen house ownership, still preferring houses to be built and owned by councils, whose direct labour costs are far above those of private enterprise.

Labour persuades the undecided voters that it is the forward-looking party of the future and that the Tories are backward-looking traditionalists. Yet the Tory manifesto offers exciting future changes. Labour thumps the socialist drums of yesterday, down to union leaders deciding economic policy at No 10. Every significant change proposed by Labour is damagingly regressive. Posing as the friend of business, Labour intends to shower public money on undertakings thought too risky by private investors but which seem a good "punt" with voters' money.

The Tories must wake from their lethargy and proclaim their lasting achievements in lifting Britain from decline since 1979 — achievements which will be magnified by the coming recovery. Many undecided voters are forgetful, blind and deaf. Mr Major, whom a substantial majority want as prime minister, must use searchlights and loudspeakers to rouse them to reality.

Burning our money in the classroom

Opposition calls for more cash won't buy better schools, says Janet Daley

Does education improve when more money is spent on it? Both opposition parties say that it does, and the electorate seem to believe them. But a feature of London life in the 1970s and '80s was the migration of parents from Labour boroughs which spent more than the national average on schools, to Conservative ones which spent less but achieved higher educational standards.

Now that moving house has become almost impossible, parents (shadow education spokesman Jack Straw among them) are simply sending their children out of Labour boroughs to schools in the closest Tory authority which accepts educational evacuees. Others withdraw their children from state schools to send them to private primaries which have far fewer facilities — scarcely more than rooms full of desks with blackboards at the front — in order to find teaching which does not waste their children's time and insult their intelligence.

Underfunding, like everything else, is relative. Before we gave up

on a state primary school which wasted weeks on diffuse, incoherent "projects", my daughter had discovered a cupboard full of personal calculators which had never even been unpacked. This same junior school (in a very low-achieving London borough which constantly complained of "lack of resources") also owned a professional smoke-making machine, which had been used once for a school play.

We desperately need to know whether what is now accepted as "the crisis in our schools" is due to underfunding or to the deliberate dismantling of traditional forms of teaching which was engineered by Labour authorities in cooperation with the teaching unions. If the latter, then Labour's successful hijacking of education as a campaign issue is a Big Lie of staggering proportions.

Anecdotal evidence comes into its own when we look at the claims of political parties that money put into education is always money

well-spent. When I worked in higher education, I was struck by its strange financial logic. Before polytechnics were freed from local authority control, they had no responsibility for their own finances. Nor did they have any decision-making power over how budgets were allocated. When it is in no one's interest to save money, because underspending the allocated budget will cause it to be cut in the next financial year (and one is not free to move funds from one category to another), looking for bargains does not count as a virtue. Thus, it was an open secret among suppliers that the public purse was effectively bottomless.

Education, which tends to equate extravagance with quality, is a sitting duck for this kind of abuse. I remember an eager young technical assistant just started to discover that the poly was being charged twice the price for steel rod that he had been paying at a private firm. The

embarrassed head of department had never encountered such a complaint before. He said that if the assistant was worried about it, he could ring the firm himself. He did exactly that. After some argy-bargy, in which he made it clear that he was familiar with the industrial price of steel rod, the supplier agreed to reduce his charge, but threatened, "We'll just put it on the bill somewhere else. Education is where we make our profit."

The companion to this story is one about a small, private art school in London which decided that it might be able to afford a photocopier. A company rep was summoned, and his reasonable quotation for the hire of a suitable machine was accepted. The next morning, the principal of this impeccable establishment received a visit from the embarrassed rep. The price he had offered had been a mistake. "That was the trade price," he explained. "But you're education." The edu-

cation price, it seemed, was almost twice as high. When the principal protested, the rep turned sulky. "You're ILEA," he muttered petulantly, "what does it matter?" Whereupon, it was explained to him that the college was not part of the ILEA but a self-supporting business surviving entirely on students' fees, and a compromise was reached.

It is precisely this kind of waste that the Conservative policy of local management of schools is designed to stop. Although Labour politicians have now accepted this form of devolved power, they still talk about "resources" as if they were the final answer to all educational problems, thereby obscuring what should be the real argument.

If we want to know what is really going wrong in schools, we must look at the ways in which they have changed most over the past thirty years: insisting that every child reinvent the wheel through personal discovery, and

wasting the energies of teachers by forcing them to go over the same ground many times with a class divided into groups which are difficult to control. The educators have inflicted these mutations upon themselves. To complain that there are no extra funds to bring in reforms as the government demands begs the question of why the reforms needed to be introduced in the first place.

In the 1950s, a baby boom meant that primary school classes often numbered more than 40 and most of the commonplace "resources" of today's schools were unheard of. Traditional teaching made no apology for being "instructional", and did not expend so much of its effort avoiding commonsense ways of handing on knowledge. Teachers then could not have dreamt of the rich variety of facilities available to classroom teachers now. Nor could they have imagined that, coinciding with that abundance, would be a decline of literacy and numeracy so disastrous that it would become an election issue.

Muckraking in Little Rock

All that stands between Bill Clinton and the Democratic nomination is his past, writes Peter Stothard

Robin Sisson, this year's Arkansas "state sweetheart", is waiting outside Bill Clinton's office wearing a pink party frock, a purple sash over her shoulder and a paste daria in her hair. A journalist asks what she thinks of the man who now looks likely to be the Democratic presidential nominee and the most distinguished Arkansan in history. Her lip wrinkles in distaste. "Vote for him? He's the fastest zipper in the South," she says, before quickly resuming her rosebud pose and straightening her sash.

This tiny scene is one of hundreds being enacted this week in Little Rock. The demure 17-year-old Ms Sissons has no direct knowledge of Governor Clinton's personal life. But she thinks that she knows, and there are dozens of reporters and Republicans here trying to prove that she is right.

A fellow visitor to the capitol, 35-year-old Jon Gregg, says he supports Bill Clinton. But nevertheless he offers to show me Jennifer Flowers's apartment, the gubernatorial jogging route lined with black prostitutes. Mrs Clinton's controversial law firm, the "Chicken House" of the infamous poultry lobby, and the local rock-groupie claims a frustrated bikini-clad encounter.

Welcome to the "Little Rock Scandal Tour". This is where would-be Pulitzer prizewinners and ambitious White House aides begin. The best newspapers have sent their best battalions. The Bush-Quayle campaign has its scouts. This year's Democratic race is now down to two winners, Bill Clinton and his past. The closer he comes to the nomination, the greater the rewards of bringing him down.

This influx of muckrakers has caused much resentment in a town of only 170,000 people, where everybody knows every-

body and the local nightclub is called The Reunion. "Nobody is safe," says Clinton-supporter and champion coon-dog breeder, Johnny Starns who is at the capitol researching the sins of his own political opponent for Clay County district nine in November.

He is talking in front of the portrait of a young Bill Clinton, painted after he lost his first election campaign for governor in 1980. That year is said to have been the key to Clinton's future. According to his much-visited enemies, it made him an unprincipled dissembler whose one aim was never to lose anything again. To his friends it was the event which, like the sex and draft-dodging allegations of earlier this year, hardened him for his destiny.

"That is no ordinary governor," says Mr Starns admiringly as he looks at the 34-year-old Clinton face, "that is a future president." Mr Gregg is not so sure. Although the young governor looks confident enough to have his eyes on the White House, the painter has also captured the essence of "Slick Willie". The other governors look like real custodians of their regalia. Bill Clinton looks like an auctioneer, cataloguing his antique desk and books for the saleroom. The Clintons' business practices are the daily theme for reporters while they wait, they say, for another high-heeled shoe to drop.

Little Rock does not yet have a full-dress scandal tour of the type that visitors can enjoy in Washington and elsewhere. Actresses dressed like Hillary Clinton and Jennifer Flowers do not yet entertain tourist-buses as Nixon lookalikes do outside the Watergate building. There is an embryonic itinerary, however, which begins at the governor's mock-colonial mansion, the Clintons' home since 1983.

Like so many American inner



city relics, this is not sited where its inhabitants would choose to live today. It sits in the Quapaw district, like a shocked aunt amid shanty dwellers, bohemian yuppies and car-dumps ringed by razor-wire. The governor's jogging route begins here and crosses the interstate highway to the McDonalds hamburger restaurant, where Mr Clinton likes to have a coffee. Could he have met prostitutes here, as a supermarket magazine has claimed? "Yeh," says Mr Gregg, "but then for ten dollars a hundred people here would say they had slept with the Pope."

On the way stands Quapaw Towers, a 12-storey apartment block, surrounded by long grass, where Jennifer Flowers lived. Convenient for trysts, but noisy, concludes Mr Gregg. He is

dubious about Jennifer Flowers' story of a 12-year affair. Perhaps they passed "like ships in the night", but Governor Clinton could have made those taped Star magazine telephone calls even if he hardly knew her. "She had been linked to him in a lawsuit. Sure he would have rung her. Down here politicians talk to anyone. That's what the Washington reporters don't understand."

A few blocks away towards the Arkansas River is the round red-brick office of Hillary Clinton's Rose Jew firm, a mecca for the better class of muckrakers who have been investigating conflicts of interest in the handling of Arkansas state business. "It's almost impossible here for businesses not to be involved with each other and the state, but I'd

be amazed if they find more than a hill of beans," says Mr Gregg. I ask about the poultry lobbyists' HQ, where Governor Clinton used to chew chicken wings after work from time to time. "It would be a great spot on the tour if you could get into big boss Don Tyson's place," says my guide.

"It's a model of the Oval Office, with brass eggs for doorknobs. But, apart from the links you would expect between the governor and the biggest business in the state, I doubt there's much to find." Arkansas, even many who dislike Bill Clinton, are concerned that their governor is being judged by double standards. "When Washington reporters first came here," says a local government worker, "they portrayed him as a yahoo with straw

in his hair; now he's too smart and slick. They made him out as a compromiser. But in a state like this, unless you compromise with the legislature you get nothing done. People attacked his marital infidelities who should never have dared to pick up the first stone."

Our tour ends at the Riverfront Hilton, where Connie Hamzy, a celebrated Little Rock groupie with a preference for rock drummers, once described a poolside proposition from the governor. In the *Penthouse* magazine version, the venue sounded like Beverly Hills. In reality, the pool is a small, cramped feature of a small, cramped hotel, a dirty blue stain on a brick floor. The bar, however, is big enough for busloads of scandal-seekers. Its best boom days may be yet to come.



...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

Over the past week, a good many people have been writing in to ask me two questions that have been troubling them. The first question is, "Who exactly are all these unnamed close friends of the royal family, intimates of the royal family, sources close to the palace, palace insiders and inner members of the royal circle?" The second question is, "Can anyone apply to be one?"

Perhaps surprisingly, the answer to the second question is yes. Fleet Street holds regular auditions for members of the general public to fill these important posts. No special knowledge is required, but a lively imagination and an ability to make a little go a long way are both essential. Last week, I went along to one such audition to find out all about it. More than five hundred people were applying for a spare post as a "source close to the palace".

The audition began with a loud sneeze from behind a closed door. "Atchoo!" Applicants were then invited to interpret what they had heard.

"Hat chew," was the reply of a Miss Massingberd from Middlesex. "The Duke of Edinburgh is so furious at the indiscretions of his family that he is threatening to eat his hat. Frankly, I'm flabbergasted. If only he had sent them to Eton, this would never have happened."

"Next!" said the producer running the audition, a senior executive on *The Daily Mail*.

"A choo-choo," said Mr Holden from Halifax. "Poor

little Princess Beatrice has been playing with her mother, the tragic Duchess of York, for a toy train."

"Next!" "Hatch ewe," said a Ms Seward from Swansea. "Down in the meadows, Prince Charles has started talking to farmyard animals to encourage them to give birth to more lambs."

"Next!" "Hate you," said a Mrs Whitaker from Romford. "These were the words heard ringing around the palace in the early hours of the morning. And they were words, in the opinion of this source close to the palace, that spelt an end to a Right Royal Dream."

"Brilliant!" explained the producer. "The job's yours!" The next vacancy on offer was for an intimate friend of the royal family. More than two thousand ordinary members of the public had applied for this arduous post. The intimate friend is required to reveal exclusive stories about the royal family twice a day during the week, rising to four times a day at weekends, with an extra six in times of trouble. He or she is also expected to add a sympathetic personal note of regret, surprise or outright dismay.

The audition started with the word "Hello" spoken from behind a closed door. Applicants were invited to offer their expert interpretations. First up was Mr Benson from Barking. "Heel low," he said. "The Duke of Edinburgh has once again exploded at Fergie's

dress sense. He is now complaining that her heels are too high, and should be lower, says an intimate friend of the royal family."

"Next!" "Yellow," said Mr Dempster of Dorking. "Intimate friends of the royal family claim that Prince Edward has been accused of cowardice by his father. This new row in the family is, they say, highly upsetting to all those in the royal circle."

"Next!" "Hell! Oh!" reported Miss Helliker from Hornchurch. "Months of exasperation came bubbling to the surface when the Duke of York was heard swearing late last night. An intimate friend of the royal family, who heard this unabashed outburst described it as 'most regrettable in the circumstances'."

"Next!" "He'll owe!" said Mr Whittam of East London. "These were the words heard issuing from the mouth of the duchess at a family crisis meeting attended by the Lord Chancellor and fifty representatives of the legal profession at the palace last night. 'It's terrible that it should have come to this,' commented an intimate friend of the family."

"You're hired!" shouted the producer. "Now, could we have all the senior members of the royal family on the right of the stage and all the highly-placed observers on the other. We've got three thousand of you to get through by lunch, so your co-operation would be appreciated."

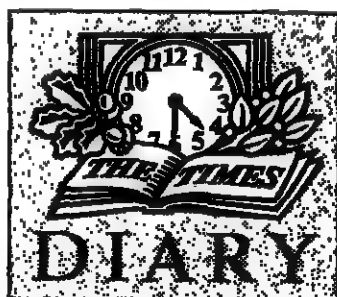
Tables turned

DIRTY TRICKS may have been in short supply in this election, but the recriminations were thick in the air on Sunday night when Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, and Des Wilson, the Liberal Democrat campaign director, found themselves dining at the same restaurant.

Wilson was the first to arrive at Joe Allen in Covent Garden, his favourite restaurant, but he was dismayed to find that his customary corner table was reserved. He made his displeasure known, and reluctantly accepted an alternative table for his party, consisting of Ollie Grender, the party's press officer, Dick Newby, one of Paddy Ashdown's aides, and Alec McGiven, a party official.

The restaurant is not a noted haunt of politicians, but is famous for its theatrical clientele. As Wilson and his team tucked into their American-style meals and discussed strategy for the week ahead, they kept an eye on their favourite table. Which star of stage or screen had squeezed them out? After about half an hour, a familiar figure arrived with a brace of beautiful women in tow. It was certainly a star of the screen, for the Tory party chairman has hardly been off *The Nine O'Clock News* and *Newsnight* for the past fortnight. Taking a rare evening off, Patten was dining with two of his daughters.

Unaware of the consternation he had caused, Patten wandered over for a friendly chat. No one was rude enough to mention the negotiating terms for a hung parliament. "I am just trying to re-acquaint myself with my daughters," said the Tory campaign manager amiably. Wilson was also determined to live up to his



leader's insistence that the Liberal Democrats should rise above the slanging tactics of the two main parties. Despite his previous complaints he did not even mention to Patten the matter of the table.

Liberal Democrat aides afterwards were less restrained. "The Tories may be unleashing their dogs of war," said one of Wilson's companions, "but surely even Norman Tebbit would hesitate at stealing a man's restaurant table."

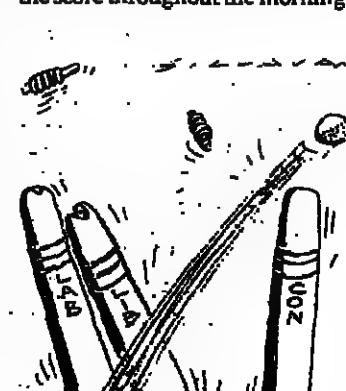
Tribune tribute

MICHAEL FOOT moved into a new office yesterday — or rather an old one. He returned to his desk at *Tribune*, the Labour weekly paper which he edited until 1960. "I needed a desk and a telephone," says Foot, who is writing a blog-

raphy of H.G. Wells. "It was either the House of Lords or *Tribune*, so there really wasn't much choice." When he arrived, he was greeted by two members of staff, Sheila Noble and Sheila Marsh, who used to work with him 30 years ago and are still on the paper. The two Sheilas have treated me wonderfully. They made it feel like coming home," says Foot. "They both look younger and more beautiful than ever."

Stirring stumps

AMONG the many telegrams and telephone calls Graham Gooch will receive before he leads England into the cricket World Cup final tomorrow will be one from John Major. The prime minister's aides say he will also be turning on the television in Downing Street at 4.30am tomorrow to watch the first over. Major's team have been instructed to keep him informed of the score throughout the morning.



Although arrangements have not been finalised, plans are also in hand for a Downing Street reception when the team returns. Neil Kinnock is believed not to have satellite television at home, but he will be kept up to date by

Labour strategists missed a trick at the Baffa awards. As Glensy Kinnock came down the stairs with her escort Kevin Billelton, the deputy chairman of Baffa, a gust of air sent her dress billowing up just like Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like It Hot*. "It could have been the glamour shot which won Labour the election. There is not a paper which would not have put the picture on the front," said a witness. Alas, three photographers were looking the other way.

A born Tory

THE arrival of Harold Macmillan's great-grandson has ensured that the Tories have already won one election contest. David Faber, grandson of Supermac and Tory candidate for Westbury, has been competing furiously in the fatherhood stakes with Paul Macdonald, his Liberal Democrat challenger. Their wives have been competing to produce the first election baby. Faber won the contest at the weekend, when his wife Sally, gave birth to Henry, who weighed 7lbs. at London's Portland Hospital.

Faber only just made it back from campaigning in the constituency for the birth. Sportingly, Macdonald was among the first to offer congratulations. "I am very pleased for them. Perhaps now he has won one battle he will let me win the other."



OUT OF AFRICA

Jean-Marie Le Pen's relative success in the French regional elections at the weekend may be followed by a neo-fascist upsurge in the Italian general election on April 5. Similar movements have developed in Austria and the former East Germany and are latent in western Russia and its former satellite states. Is the far right once again on the move in Europe?

The answer can only lie in the correct analysis of the catalyst in each case. This catalyst is a widespread alarm, shared by electors on both the left and the right, at mass immigration into Western Europe, legal and illegal. But the assumption that the attitudes which disturb Europe in 1992 are identical to the evil ideology that overwhelmed Europe in the late-1930s is that most dangerous of prophecies, the self-fulfilling kind.

The French Socialist's recent demonstration of Le Pen helped bring about his party's 12.4 per cent share of the national vote. It was an object lesson in how not to meet the challenge of the contemporary far-right. The stress arising from immigration into Western Europe, from east or south, is not just a fantasy of the French National Front or Italian Social Movement or Austrian neo-Nazis. It arises from a sense of cultural disparity and incompatibility, which happens when population movements take place too fast. To call a French housewife a racist because she is driven to distraction by the midnight smells of Arab cooking from the apartment of her Algerian neighbour is simply not fair.

Certainly racism underpinned much of M Le Pen's appeal, but the socialists send into his camp plenty of voters concerned only about the importance of being and feeling French, by place of birth and nationality, language and culture, and of France staying recognisably French, rather than in many regions virtually Muslim. Such concern may be chauvinist and hidebound, but it is not necessarily racist. It is an expression of pride in national identity.

France is at present struggling to absorb some four million recent immigrants from North Africa, more than Britain is conceivably contemplating. To describe as racist

all those resisting such an influx — one that may come to haunt Britain as a much slower influx did in the 1960s — is dangerously unhelpful. A concern for the proper handling of immigration into a modern welfare state must be distinguished from the evils of Hitlerism or the Ku Klux Klan. Relief from the stress of cultural incompatibility must not be permitted even to seem to depend on a victory for racist fascism.

The spectre which is aroused by the present revival of the far-right in Europe is the racism defined and practised by Hitler. But the "racial hygiene" theories of the social Darwinist Eugene Fischer — which Hitler studied in prison after his Munich putsch and adopted wholesale into *Mein Kampf* — are now confined to a lunatic fringe. Early genetic theory promoted such views, just as contemporary genetic theory has thoroughly discredited them. To an astonishing degree — and varieties of skin colour notwithstanding — the human race has been found to be genetically uniform, as if all humankind was descended from one parent.

Since earliest times, humankind's movement away from its African origins has been a source of conflict. But the pace of change was slow, suggesting it was more often accomplished peacefully by assimilation and inter-marriage than by conquest. As human groups continue to move round and between continents, these are still the principles by which such movements should be governed. Modern democracies with highly developed social market economies are likely to experience a permanent tension between an economic need for cheap labour and a social resistance to rising dependency rates.

There is always likely to be a critical level of immigration above which sharp resistance is generated in the host community. Restraining movement below that level is an unavoidable obligation of government and one that governments of all parties have accepted in Britain since (and before) the war. Controlling migration, whether in France or Britain or in the European community as a whole, is not racist. The racist cause is only helped by pretending the opposite.

LABOUR'S INDUSTRY

Does Labour have any answer to the balance of payments deficit for February of £750 million announced yesterday? The deficit is alarming, since a recession is supposed to restrain demand for imports. At this stage in the trade cycle, the Tories' supply-side asceticism should have suppressed costs and enabled exports to be doing better than imports. That this is not the case gives the Tories little to shout about. But they are not shouting: Labour is.

Neil Kinnock yesterday launched Labour's manifesto for manufacturing industry. Over the years, Labour has had a romantic attachment to manufacturing. The traditional purpose of Labour was to advance the interest of the great unions once concentrated in that sector, though the party has since also become the champion of public-sector direct labour where its strength is now greatest.

Today manufacturing is more about microchips than anvils. Labour's continued claim that manufacturing is somehow more virtuous or more fundamental to the economy than what it calls "Mickey Mouse" service industries is simply archaic. There is no particular reason for Labour to favour those who work in manufacturing over those who often work harder for less in the service sector. But manufacturing remains a good test of whether the party is concerned for private-sector prosperity. And if there is a trade gap to fill, a strong manufacturing sector is necessary to fill it.

In some particulars, Labour policies might do some good. Its emphasis on training for skill now reflects the conventional wisdom. The party intends to ensure that firms that fail to invest in training cannot just steal skills from firms that do. The introduction of enhanced tax incentives would encourage industry to invest early in recovery, though the Institute for Fiscal Studies recently pointed out that this is "an extremely expensive way of generating a small amount

of new activity." And Labour has shed the worst of its big-union baggage.

Some anachronistic interventionist persists: Britain is to be blessed or cursed with regional development agencies, a national investment bank and technology trusts. But the renationalisation threat seems to have all but evaporated. There is no hint of planning agreements, or of the disastrous practice of ministers trying to "pick winners" DeLoe style. For this relief, industry may offer up many thanks.

But Labour has other burdens it is eager to impose. The unions will still have to operate within a framework of law, but the right to manage will be eroded by the acceptance of the European social chapter. Industrial costs will be increased thereby, witness the sufferings of competitors in Germany, France and Spain. The national minimum wage, though its main direct effect will be on pay in low paid service trades, can hardly have a benign impact on manufacturing. The "animal spirits" of the entrepreneur will scarcely be stirred by John Smith's tax regime.

This might be more endurable if Labour now had a remotely plausible macro-economic package. The party has committed itself as a talisman of its probity to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. Sterling will be taken, as swiftly as may be, into its narrow band. Add this to the current high rate of public borrowing, and include further borrowing as an incoming Labour government forges privatisation proceeds, and the road leads straight to higher interest rates.

Two of these three disadvantages may arise equally with the Conservatives, but the Labour combination presents manufacturing industry, in the Patten parlance, with a "triple whammy": an uncompetitive exchange rate, higher direct costs and more expensive borrowing. Nothing could be better designed to perpetuate the difficulties now facing British industry.

OIL ON TROUBLED FRICTION

Perhaps the way to put the beef back into manufacturing industry is not through devising new investment allowances or through squeezing more productivity from the grumbling artisan, but through tribology. The campaign to encourage industry to pay attention to tribology, launched yesterday, calculates that it can save British industry £1.5 billion a year. The word means the science of reducing wear and tear, of studying interacting surfaces in relative motion, with friction, wear, lubrication and the design of bearings.

Isaac Newton discovered the laws of gravitation by observing an apple falling from a tree in his garden. If there had been bananas around in 1666 and Isaac had then gone out and slipped on one, he might have discovered the laws of tribology three centuries before they were formally disclosed to an astonished world. Most machines with parts in motion rubbing against each other can be improved by tribology, usually in the form of a squirt of oil.

However, not all mechanical moving parts are necessarily improved by lubrication. Lubricity is the last quality required in clutches, brakes, and tyres. If the interface between the sole of the shoe and the carpet were efficiently lubricated, nobody would be able to move from one productive endeavour to another, assuming he had slithered to the one in the first place.

Tribology was a British discovery, invented by a working party of lubrication technolo-

gists set up by the old Ministry of Technology which reported in 1966. It coined its name after consultation with the editor of *The Oxford English Dictionary*. The word ought to be a success in Britain, since it has a built-in cultural indicator. Linguists pronounce it with a short i, as in "trib"; scientists prefer the long i, as in "tribe". Because the science is multi-disciplinary, embracing engineering, metallurgy, chemistry and others, it has (like probability theory) been foolishly and expensively neglected in the British engineering curriculum.

As machines grow smaller, more heavily worked and usually more costly to maintain, it becomes more important to reduce wear and keep them running smoothly. In space and nuclear engineering, sending a man with an oil-can into space to lubricate the works is prohibitively expensive. The tribology needs to be right to start with.

There is nothing new in this. Simple is beautiful. For want of oilcan or ball-bearing a war is lost. Tribology should tell us why one shoelace always breaks before the other, or why his leg falling off Concorde. Great technological discoveries tend with hindsight to be irritatingly obvious. If every attic were stuffed with polystyrene, it would reduce the heating bills of the nation dramatically. So would the wearing of pullovers to work. Tribology may be a daft word. But it might keep the wheels of industry turning to more advantage than the financial manoeuvres of accountants and politicians.

The Yorks, the public and the press

From Mr Nicholas Francis

Sir, In my lifetime there have been three royal weddings. There are now two royal separations. Should the public funding of such weddings be reviewed?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS FRANCIS,
29 Bedford Row, WC1.
March 18.

From Mr Andrew Dyke

Sir, You say, in your editorial today, that "the British people have long sensed a security in having an extended family as its symbolic head of state rather than some passing and partisan president". But what is the people to make of a family with apparently such scant regard for duty and for the importance of lasting marriage bonds? How can we continue to respect people who display the moral code of commoners rather than royalty?

Presidents can at least be elected out of office when they cease to behave properly. And they pay their taxes.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW DYKE,
40 Compton Road,
Winchmore Hill, N21.
March 20.

From Mrs Avril Walker

Sir, How sad that the Duke and Duchess of York should choose the easy way out of their marriage problems as do many thousands of commoners every year. How much more difficult, and selfless, it would be to remain together and work at it, not only for their children's sake but also for themselves as royalty.

Yours faithfully,
AVRIL WALKER,
3 Boxgrove Avenue,
Guildford, Surrey.
March 19.

From Mr James Kirkman

Sir, Yesterday you reported on the marital problems of the Duke and Duchess of York on pages 1, 2, 3, 16, 20 and page 17 of the Life & Times section. On page 17 you had the sense to write an editorial which concluded "That the royal couple's former happiness was so public in no way diminishes their right to be private. Now that the ending of their relationship has been recorded, the privacy of their pain should be respected".

These laudable sentiments seem somewhat pointless when today we are treated to further articles on the same subject on pages 1, 3, 8, 14 and 18. Congratulations on keeping them out of the Sports section, or have I missed something.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES KIRKMAN,
46 Brompton Square, SW3.
March 21.

Election: the issues

From Lord Watkinson, CH

Sir, Now that businessmen have expressed their political preferences in your correspondence columns (March 17, 18, 19, 20) may I append a comment from one who has been involved, as a businessman or politician, in every general election since 1945.

The outstanding feature of this election seems to be the inward-looking issues chosen by the opposition parties to lead their campaigns. These seem to imply that Britain cares nothing for the outside world. I wonder if they have got it right.

Do we really believe that it is of no importance who will be the British prime minister to preside over a critical six months in the evolution of the European Commission? Do we really fail to understand that transitional unemployment is part of the price that we have to pay if we are to get real recovery based on export performance? Do we swallow the myth that sterile arguments about the health service are more important than the reshaping of world trade under GATT?

It was, Sir, *The Times* that

Election: the minorities

From the Secretary of Democratic Left

Sir, You today reported Democratic Left's decision not to look for votes in this election and our campaign for tactical voting against the Tories as a "negative" campaign.

The only thing that Democratic Left "says no" to is wasting votes on no-hope candidates, rather than using them to defeat the Tories. I suspect that people like the Conservative party chairman are going to be rather more worried by us campaigning for tactical voting in his constituency than by us standing a candidate which could just help him save his seat.

Could this be why Britain's largely pro-Tory press so inadequately reports the growing numbers across the country who want to get rid of the Tories and our undemocratic system and are prepared to do something about it?

Democratic Left wants an electoral system where people can vote for whoever they want and their votes will count. But reform can only begin once the Tories have been ousted, and we want to see reform, not just talk about it. We call on everyone who wants an end to Tory rule and a democratic electoral system, whether Labour, Lib Dem, Green, National-

ist, or Democratic Left, to join us in putting aside party chauvinism to vote the Tories out.

Yours etc.,
NINA TEMPLE, Secretary,
Democratic Left,
6 Cynthia Street, N1.
March 20.

From Mr Charles Ehrlich

Sir, In a report published on March 12, the Anti-Federalist League was described as an "extreme right", "anti-European", "fringe group".

I can assure you that the league is an all-party, mainstream organisation, whose objective is merely the defence of British national sovereignty against the encroachments of European nationalism.

We are not anti-European: we merely have a vision of Europe which opposes its centralisation. We are not authoritarian: we believe in voluntary co-operation, the rights of individuals and the right of individual nations to safeguard their identities and vital national interest.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES EHRLICH (Secretary,
Anti-Federalist Student League),
London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

From Mrs P. F. Tully

Sir, I disagree that the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York is "of no great public consequence". The royal family is as important to this country as much because it is a family as because it is royal. At a time when family life is increasingly threatened, its members are in a unique position to give a lead to the country and, to use an old-fashioned expression, to set a good example.

The breakdown of the Yorks' marriage may not damage the Constitution, but it will undermine fragile families even further.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONIA TULLY,
18 Louisa Road, SW11.
March 20.

From Mrs Jean Draycott

Sir, Valerie Grove's article, "And they all lived sadly after" (March 20), was fair and reasonable but the final paragraph was wrong.

In her 40th anniversary film, the Queen, speaking of the Scottish soldier, did not say: "You can do a lot if you've been properly trained. As I have." She said: "You can do a lot if you have been properly trained", and added wistfully, "I hope I have been."

Yours faithfully,
JEAN DRAYCOTT,
5 Fountain Court, Birmingham 4.
March 20.

awarded me the accolade in 1950 of fighting a "possible marginal" as Conservative candidate for the new seat of Woking. It came right on polling day, as I believe that it will come right for John Major and his colleagues, as the country rejects this attempt to push into the margin so many important issues on which the future of our country depends.

Yours sincerely,
WATKINSON,
Tyma House, Shore Road,
Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex.

From Mr M. S. Hunter-Jones

Sir, In her letter published today (March 19) Ms Janet Salmon agrees that businessmen whose successful companies have made large contributions to the Conservative party cannot be regarded as "giving objective analysis on the economic competence of the three major parties".

This is strange logic. One gives to a political party, or any other cause, because one has belief in its comparative merits; one does not believe in its merits because one has given money to it.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. HUNTER-JONES,
59 Great Ormond Street, WC1.

Priorities for future of environment

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRs

Sir, The forthcoming UN conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro makes it desirable to list topics and desiderata according to feasibility as well as importance. My own list is as follows:

1. Noxious emissions into the atmosphere and oceans, such as sulphurous and nitrous oxides, heavy metals, etc., and equally those damaging to the ozone layer, such as CFCs and methane. Sharply reducing all these is easily within our power at some expense, and a programme for such reductions could and should be agreed.

2. Carbon dioxide, while not in itself noxious, is thought to lead through its increasing concentration in the air (due to fossil fuel burning) to climate changes. But serious as such changes may be, a major increase in fuel burning is an essential consequence of the vital growth of Third World economies. Even heroic measures could only mildly reduce the speed of the increase of the carbon dioxide content of the air. I entirely favour otherwise sensible moves to reduce energy consumption, especially through improving the efficiency of energy use, but they are not going to reduce the rate of carbon dioxide growth by much.

3. The most worrying phenomenon of all is the loss of topsoil through erosion, which is largely concentrated in the developing countries. The importance of this is very great. Humanity can adjust, albeit with some pain, to changes in climate, it can adjust to changes in energy sources, again with some pain, but it cannot live without topsoil. Soil erosion must receive absolute priority.

What must be avoided above all is that steps agreed because of 2 hinder amelioration of 3 and of 1 by measures which can be taken but often with extra energy consumption.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.
March 17.

From Mr Aubrey Meyer

Sir, The Department of Trade and Industry may now become the new home of the Department of Energy. Energy efficiency will go to the Department of the Environment.

A legal liability

From Mr W. D. R. Spens

Sir, Whilst a trial is continuing the defendant almost certainly is not earning. Unlike the judge, the court officials and the myriad of lawyers, he is not paid during that period, and that ignores the time before trial in the preparation and presentation of the defence case.

Legal costs are liabilities incurred to barristers and solicitors, not payment for the time and effort of the defendant in preparing his case. The refusal of costs is, therefore, the infliction of a second penalty.

Mr Justice Henry is reported (March 14) as refusing to direct payment of my brother Lord Spens's legal costs out of public funds because he had brought the prosecution upon himself "by failing to lift the telephone to the takeover panel to check what he was doing", and the

This is a Conservative election pledge. The restraint of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK will therefore largely become the DTI's concern and when EC energy ministers and environment ministers meet to discuss EC strategy for emissions restraint, the UK will presumably be sending a trade and industry minister instead of an energy minister.

At the last such meeting in December, ministers conceded that the EC's contemplated measures (including the proposed energy tax) were inadequate. The Conservatives' scheme will hardly help. DTI might legitimately be called the Department of Economic Growth, with a brief directly in conflict with emissions restraint. It is this conflict of interests which is at the heart of the global warming crisis.

Global climate change is merely a symptom of economic growth via energy conversion and the consequent carbon dioxide emissions, and to give the energy brief to the DTI is to compound the problem, not to cure it. Do we believe that industry "self-regulation", aided by a possible energy tax, will produce effective emissions restraint?

In February, while the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advised deadlocked UN climate-change negotiators that "more far-reaching efforts are required than are currently contemplated (within the OECD) in order to achieve a major reduction of the rate of carbon dioxide increase in the atmosphere", European multi-national companies were threatening to decamp to the Third World to escape the EC's energy tax.

It is widely recognised world wide that the onus of creating strategy for emissions restraint — essentially a global strategy for equity and survival — now lies with the OECD. If this government is sincere in its commitment to the IPCC findings they could do worse than move the Department of Energy en bloc to the Department of Environment, while the DTI should be subject to the requirements of a DoE committed to those findings. This should be an election issue.

Yours etc.,
AUBREY MEYER
(Executive Director),
Global Commons Institute,
42 Windsor Road, NW2.
March 20.

Serious Fraud Office is reported as saying "it would not be in the public interest to subject him to a second trial".

If those who are prosecuting say that it is not in the public interest to have a second trial it cannot logically be said that the defendant has brought the non-existent prosecution upon himself. The reference by Mr Justice Henry can logically only be to the bringing of the original prosecution.

The original trial was aborted through no fault of Lord Spens before all the prosecution evidence had been presented and, where necessary challenged. Where has the presumption of innocence gone?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SPENS,
Marsh Mills Cottage,
Over Stowey,
Bridgewater, Somerset.
March 15.

World Cup chaos

From Mr Garth Wilson

Sir, The rules which govern the current World Cup cricket competition may have their shortcomings but we should always hope to see fair play. The slowing down by South Africa so that only 45 overs were bowled in the allotted period (reports, March 23) was, at best, a considered tactical manoeuvre. At worst, it was contrary to the fundamental spirit of the game.

Furthermore, its effect was to deprive the paying public of 10 per cent of the match. It is hard not to say "serves them right".

Yours faithfully,
GARTH WILSON,
20 Cheltenham Road,
South Croydon, Surrey.

From Mr A. P. F. Williamson

Sir, You have heard of "wet" politicians and "wet" economists. Yesterday saw the emergence of the "wet" cricketer, a desperate English captain defending a paltry lead of 22 runs with 13 balls to go, who feels a touch of evening mist and turns to Australian rulemakers to avoid certain defeat.

Shame on you. Wait until 1996.

Yours faithfully, from an unbloodied and unbowed Springbok,
ANDREW WILLIAMSON,
Horseshoe House, Luxfords Lane,
East Grinstead, West Sussex.

From Mr James Robertson

Sir, If the election speech of the party speaking second is delayed or interrupted by rain or other cause, would it not be fairer to all concerned if the number of promises to be delivered were then reduced by the equivalent number of least-believable promises of the party speaking first?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ROBERTSON,
11 St Mary's Terrace, W2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

OBITUARIES

TSCHA HUNG

Tscha Hung, scholar of philosophy, died in Peking on February 27 aged 62. He was born in the middle Yangtze province of Anhwei, China, on October 12, 1909.

TSCHA Hung played a unique role in the development of philosophy in modern China. He received his university education in science and philosophy in Berlin, Jena and finally in Vienna, where he was awarded his doctorate in 1934 for a thesis on the problem of causation in modern physics. The direction of Tscha Hung's philosophical life was formed in 1931-36. He was then a member of the Vienna Circle, the ruthless, iconoclastic school of logical positivists dominated by Schlick, Carnap and Neurath, most of whom were trained in the natural sciences and who aimed at "the elimination of metaphysics." They would achieve this by applying the verification principle to all statements. Statements neither empirically verifiable nor true by definition would be dismissed as meaningless, a class which would contain most traditional metaphysics and moral philosophy. In 1936 the youthful A. J. Ayer launched the Circle's doctrine, or a version of them, in Britain in his brief bombshell *Language, Truth and Logic*, and would spend the rest of his life modifying and retracting them.

The war with Japan, the civil war and the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949 prevented Tscha

Hung from becoming the Ayer of China. He returned there to teach philosophy at Chinese universities during the war, then spent 1945-47 as a research fellow at New College, Oxford. Throughout this period he was publishing papers on the philosophy of science and empiricism.

Tscha Hung returned from Oxford to China, and from 1948-80 he did not leave it again. After a brief period teaching at Wuhan and Yencheng University in Peking, Tscha Hung was to be preserved at Peking University as head, first of the Seminar for the History of Foreign Philosophy, then of the Institute of Foreign Philosophy. He was made editor-in-chief of a series of anthologies of Chinese translations of classics of western philosophy, from the ancient Greeks to the logical empiricists. In thus transmitting the tradition of western reason Tscha Hung made no concessions to ideological changes, although the earlier volumes were apparently accompanied by official prefaces, by other hands, pointing out the errors of their contents.

In 1980, with the opening to the West, Tscha Hung was again allowed to visit Europe. Though by now in his seventies and relatively frail, Tscha Hung became, once more, an indefatigable traveller, charming his hosts with his philosophical acumen and acerbic wit. Through the 1980s he received visiting fellowships at Oxford, contributed to symposia on Wittgenstein and Schlick-Neurath in Austria and lectured in Hong Kong. In 1984 Vienna University awarded him a second, honorary, doctorate on the 50th anniversary of his first one. In these years he also received some further recognition in his own country, including membership of the council of Peking University.

In their last years, Tscha Hung and Ayer were honorary presidents of the Sino-British Philosophy Summer School in Peking, whose success owed much to their distinguished patronage.

Tscha Hung is survived by his widow, Hong Ho Yuheng.



GEORGES DELERUE

Georges Delerue, French composer best known for his film scores, died following a stroke in Los Angeles on March 20 aged 67. He was born in Roubaix, northern France, in 1925.

GEORGES Delerue was one of the favourite composers of France's New Wave film directors. Truffaut used him for early successes including *Shoot the Piano Player* and *Juliet and Jim*. Before that he had provided the score for Resnais' *Hiroshima, mon amour*. The music for Philippe de Broca's *The Man from Rio* came from Delerue and in the Sev-



enties he returned to Truffaut to provide the score for *La Nuit américaine* and *Le Dernier Metro*.

Delerue came from a working-class family but he won a scholarship to the Paris Conservatoire, where Darius Milhaud was among his teachers. There he was encouraged in his desire to compose movie scores and his ambition was achieved by the time he had turned thirty.

His European success quickly caught the ear of filmmakers abroad. Fred Zinnemann engaged him for *Behold a Pale Horse* and *A Man for All Seasons* and the partnership was resumed in *Day of the Jackal* and *Julia*. By that time he had already moved to Hollywood and picked up an Academy award in 1979 for best original soundtrack for *A Little Romance*.

His other recent works included the scores for Bruce Beresford's *Mister Johnson*, John Hughes' *Curly Sue*, and Bryan Gibson's *The Josephine Baker Story*.

France appointed Georges Delerue Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He married Micheline Gautron in 1959; they have one daughter.

JOHN IRELAND

John Ireland, Hollywood actor who did most of his best work in the Fifties, died of leukaemia in Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, California, on March 21 aged 78. He was born in Vancouver on January 30, 1914.

JOHN Ireland was one of those borderline stars whose career, while well-respected and extensive, permitted him on the whole to play lesser roles in major productions and to star only in films close to *Poverty Row*. In common with several actors of the generation which emerged in Hollywood immediately after the second world war Ireland began with a bang and ended, if not with a whimper, at least with a slow fade to black.

Even in his early days in films he was paradoxically placed. On the one hand he was giving excellent performances in serious films by respected directors (in 1949 he was nominated for a supporting Oscar for his appearance in Robert Rossen's *All the King's Men*), and on the other he was frequently in the gossip columns as an enthusiastic skirt-chaser, high-liver and macho tearaway. In 1959, when he was 45, he hit the headlines for his affair with the then 16-year-old Tuesday Weld. "If there wasn't such a difference in our ages I'd ask her to marry me. That and her mother are the only things that stop me." He also rebelled against the Production Code's demands about the type of male underwear to be worn on screen. John Ireland was an extrovert.

Perhaps these seeming inconsistencies were inevitable given his oddly heterogeneous earlier career. Though he was born in Canada his family moved to New York when he was still a child. He began performing, not on stage, but in swimming pool, his husky physique recommending him as an active and decorative part of a water carnival. Soon he switched to dry land, however, and found work acting in stock companies and on Broadway specialising, surprisingly enough, in Shakespeare, for which his naturally clear articulation (no method mumbler, he) and resonant delivery fitted him very well.

He did not catch Hollywood's attention until he turned 30, but when he did he could hardly have asked for a more prestigious beginning: he appeared in rapid succession playing featured roles in Lewis Milestone's second world war equivalent to his earlier *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *A Walk in the Sun*, based on the Harry Brown novel, and John Ford's classic western *My Darling Clementine*. These were both in 1944 and, his presence being duly noted, Ireland went on to appear in more human roles in Howard Hawks' *Red River* and the Ingrid Bergman *Joan of Arc*. He was also in Samuel Fuller's first film, *I Shot Jesse James* (1949) in which he was Bob Ford, the "T" who shot the outlaw.



John Ireland with Joanne Dru in *All the King's Men*.

Also in 1949 he made *All the King's Men* in which he played Jack Burden, the ruthless intellectual who becomes corrupt politician Willie Stark's right hand man. For this last performance he won golden opinions and his only Academy Award nomination, for best supporting actor.

Ireland's looks and physique were a mixed blessing. They tended to get him cast as hero-men and hater-men. Perhaps too frequently the latter. His facial expression, helping his personal good nature, could all too easily drop into a villainous sneer. For a while after *All the King's Men* he continued to appear in major productions like *Gunfight at the OK Corral*, *Party Girl* and Stanley Kubrick's *Spartacus*, but there he became increasingly lost in the crowd. His best work was done in much smaller productions like *Outlaw Territory* (1953) which he also co-produced and co-directed with the distinguished cameraman Lee Garmes, or minimalist budget Roger Corman productions like *Guns-*

slinger (1956). He also appeared to good effect in opposition Joan Crawford in *Queen Bee* and this was remembered when she came to make *I Saw What You Did* (1965), her last Hollywood film, in which a sexy menace was required.

Otherwise his working on several European-made spectacles like *55 Days in Peking* and *The Fall of the Roman Empire* seemed inevitably to lead to long periods in Italy and Spain making the kind of tatty international production which was often the last refuge of Hollywood's failing stars. One of his best later roles was in Dick Richards' lively remake of *Faraway, So Close*, in which he was one of the suspicious characters surrounding Robert Mitchum's weary Philip Marlowe. Unfortunately, more characteristic titles were *Love and the Midnight Auto Supply* and *Kavir the Wolf Dog*.

Ireland was several times married, notably to Joanne Dru, who appeared with him in a number of films, including *Red River* and *All the King's Men*.

CANON HAROLD LOVELL

Canon Harold Guildford Lovell, the last surviving British army chaplain from the first world war, died on March 15, aged 102. He was born on February 6, 1890.



HAROLD Lovell was a young curate in Kingston, Jamaica, when his bishop dispatched him to the Western Front in 1917. He was assigned as chaplain to a local unarmoured labour battalion, one of 11 that were raised in the West Indies. He sailed with them in a troopship to Nova Scotia, where they joined the first detachments of United States troops that were being sent to redress the balance of the old world. After crossing the Atlantic to Boulogne, Lovell and his men, the 7th West Indian battalion, were posted near the railroad at Elverdinge, between Poperinge and Ypres, to manhandle heavy ammunition for the artillery. He spoke later of his admiration for both the strength and courage of the big young Jamaicans as they loaded giant shells from railway trucks on to mule trains which they then led to the batteries at the front.

However, Lovell's duties soon ranged far beyond their pastoral care. He became responsible for a large casualty clearing station, ministering to the wounded as they were stretched from the trenches and, all too frequently, burying the dead. In common with many others serving in the grim conditions of Flanders, he sought refuge in Poperinge, where the Rev "Tubby" Clayton had founded the *Toc H* in Talbot House. Lovell, who became a friend and admirer of Clayton, later started the *Toc H* movement in Jamaica and remained an

active member until his death. In 1918 he managed to snatch a brief leave in England, in order to marry his boyhood girl friend, Mary Sargeant, by then the senior saleswoman in a London milliner's. He got back "more by croak than by hook" (as he later put it) through offering to look after a party of West Indians in need of hospital treatment for malaria. Lovell himself was to suffer from malaria throughout his life.

He had left Britain shortly before the outbreak of war, to train for the priesthood at a theological college in Kingston. Born in Leyton, north-east London, he had first become drawn to the church through the Boys' Brigade, but lacked the resources to go to college at home. Jamaica was offering, however, a free passage and place for British students in an effort to recruit more young Anglicans for its own churches. Its investment in Harold Lovell was a wise one because he was to spend most of his ministry on the island. After serving as curate at All Saints, Kingston, between 1914 and 1917, he returned from the war in 1919 to become rector of St Jude's and St Christopher's.

Stoneyhill, for three years and then rector of Halfway Tree from 1922 until 1949.

He was made an honorary canon of Kingston Cathedral in 1939 and a canon emeritus in 1950, following his return to this country on account of his wife's poor health. After serving briefly as curate at Bishop's Hatfield, Hertfordshire, then as rector for two years of Wyddial and Anster, he became rector in 1952 of Essendon, a parish in the gift of the Marquess of Salisbury at nearby Hatfield House.

A convivial, pipe-smoking cleric with a twinkling eye, Harold Lovell became close to the Salisbury family and, after his retirement in 1964, lived in a cottage on their estate. Barbara Cartland was another former parishioner and long-standing friend. Lovell's 100th birthday party was held in Hatfield House two years ago.

His continuing mental agility was recently demonstrated by two broadcasts he made on Radio 4. His wife, The Rev Richard Webb, Rector, The Rev Richard Webb, Rector, the church, died in the 1980s but not before they had celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary together.

WILFRED CARTEY

Wilfred Cartey, West Indian poet and historian of Negro literature, died in New York on March 21 aged 60. He was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in 1931.

THE work for which Wilfred Cartey was best known, and for which he will be most valued, was undoubtedly the ground-breaking *Whispers from a Continent: The Literature of Contemporary Black Africa* (1969). Many copies of it were ordered, from all over the world, from Random House, its original American publisher, before Heinemann Educational Books had the good sense to publish it in 1971.

Whispers from a Continent was by no means the first critical study of African writing to appear, but for many it was the first really authentic one. It remains the most sheerly exciting account of its subject available. In it Cartey dealt with such major writers as Camara Laye, Cheikh Hamidou Kane and Chinua Achebe, not only with great soundness and scholarship, but also with infectious sympathy and understanding. Its tone is never strident and the book gives indispensable accounts of the political and literary background to such novels as Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, Alex La Guma's *A Walk in the Night* and Cyprian Ekwensi's *Beautiful Feathers*. Cartey dealt, too, with the poetry of such men

as Christopher Okigbo — killed in the Biafran war — and Gabriel Okara and with the drama of Wole Soyinka.

Whispers from a Continent was also the first book to steer a sensible course between vilification and praise of Amos Tutuola, too despised by many Nigerians and too uncritically acclaimed by many non-Nigerians. Most of those who have learned anything about the riches of contemporary black literature have learned their first and foremost from Cartey's modest and yet creative study. Wilfred Cartey graduated from the University College of the West Indies in 1955. He obtained his MA and doctorate in comparative literature from Columbia, where he taught for most of his life, although he held visiting posts at many other universities, including Ghana, Vermont, Berkeley (California), and Puerto Rico. He lectured at Howard University, in Washington.

Early in his adult life Cartey went blind, which made his achievements even more remarkable. He wrote *Islands in the Sun*, about the Caribbean, and he also knew Africa very well. *Children of Lillibela* (1985) describes a trip to Ethiopia. The House of Blue Lightning (1973), is a collection of poems, which perhaps did not receive as much attention as it should have done.

Cartey is survived by four brothers and a sister.

MICHAEL BEVAN

Michael Guy Molesworth Bevan, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, died on March 2, aged 65. He was born on August 23, 1926.

EDUCATED at Eton, Michael Bevan served in the Grenadier Guards for three years before joining the shipping and trading company, Briscoes and Watford where he became a director and, then, in 1980, chairman. In 1957 he inherited the Longstone estate near Cambridge where he lived and farmed. He was a governor of the Papworth Trust from 1962, chairman from 1980 and chairman of the Ely Cathedral fund-raising appeal committee. He is survived by

his wife, Mary, three sons and a daughter.



LIVES REMEMBERED

A COLLECTION of 180 obituaries from the 900 or so published on this page during 1991 has been produced in book form, edited by David Heaton and John Higgins, under the title *Lives Remembered*.

The bishops, judges and peers who traditionally occupied the obituary columns now mingle with businessmen, TV stars and sportsmen. The infamous may occasionally rub shoulders with the famous — all walks and conditions of life are represented.

Lives Remembered, fully illustrated and with a foreword by Lord Annan, is available at £19.95 from the Blewbury Press, 10, Station Road, Pangbourne, Berks. RG8 7AN (Tel. 0235 850110. Fax 0734 843336).

March 24 ON THIS DAY 1819

By the mid-sixteenth century the majority of the population of Nîmes (France) was Protestant. Strife between them and the Catholics was endemic. In 1687 Louis XIV built a fortress there to keep the parties in check; it failed to prevent the Protestants from being massacred in 1815.

STRIKE IN NIMES

The 59th number of the *Minerve*, which has just been published, contains the following intelligence from Nîmes-March 8:

"Behold us again a prey to the most serious alarms; the volcano threatens a fresh eruption. The news - of the proposition made in the Chamber of Peers has given fresh confidence to the instigators of troubles and the artisans of discord; they have threatened peaceable citizens, and last night after the play, gave themselves up to the most violent excesses. The cold indifference with which authority has been for four months surrendered into unwieldy hands, and the inconceivable departure of the garrison, contributed not a little to the audacity of the agitators."

At seven o'clock in the morning some of those wretches who spread terror through the city in 1815, were heard to say, that the Protestants would have to pass an unhappy week; that they meant to begin their operations in the evening at the theatre, and they were sufficiently numerous to accomplish their object. A great number of porters were accordingly at the theatre; among others was remarked the notorious Sac a M****. It is confidently stated, that their admission was paid for. It is added, that several officers of the ex-national guard assembled to replace sergeants and corporals deceased, that the

companies might have their full complement. Some were even heard to say, publicly, that as soon as the present Ministry should be kicked out, they would appoint a grand review on the esplanade, to celebrate the news.

In different quarters of the city, men were known to have prepared their fire-arms and to have provided themselves with cartridges; numerous assemblages traversed the boulevards, and threatened peaceable citizens. The son of a respectable citizen, M. Gros was pursued by a mob, throwing stones; M. Hagé, in returning from the play, was attacked by several men as he entered his own house. The son of the unfortunate Lichère, massacred in 1815, was violently assaulted and bruised. Tourin, an innkeeper, and several other persons, were maltreated. During a great part of the night, mobs paraded the streets, crying, with a ferocious joy, "The King is dead!" The madmen and do they think, that if so great a calamity were to plunge France into sorrow, the crime would remain unpunished? The quarters of the city which they traversed were thrown into consternation; every one recalled the atrocities of 1815 and 1816. Many citizens, assaulted and wounded, complained to justice, and a *proverbe* was drawn up, either by the King's Procureur or by the agents of the police; but it would lead to an erroneous estimate of the number and violence of the excesses committed, to judge of them by the number of the complaints preferred.

The greater portion of those assaulted will not, or to speak more properly, dare not complain. In the same manner, during the month of December, at the time when the Mayor of Nîmes pretends that there were neither troubles nor provocations, nor green cockades, several persons who had abandoned their villages, durst not bring any charges against those whose meanness and outrages had compelled them to leave their dwellings.

Architecture

Car park with sense of motion

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

FEW multi-storey car parks show any sign of tender loving care in their maintenance, let alone design. So the burghers of Chichester in West Sussex can rest content that no car park in Britain has been so carefully considered from any aspect as their new Avenue de Chartres car park just south of the city walls.

The architects, Birds, Portsmouth and Russum, won the job in an open competition and for them it has had all the excitement of a first major commission. "A car park is the last truly public building, one where the public has access to every part," Richard Portsmouth says.

Granted the building has been attacked locally as "a giant Saddamite fortress" and "a huge salmon pink ferry boat" but the very extravagance of the illusions suggests something far more colourful than the usual rain-

stained municipal concrete. By day the smooth round, flat-topped towers might just be some mud brick kasbah in the desert and at night they light up as festively as the funnels of a paddle steamer.

The row of five towers is a deliberate attempt to present a "civil" frontage towards the town, echoing but not aping the lines of Chichester's still remarkable Roman and medieval walls.

The new car park has been kept long and low to ensure it does not intrude into key views of the town. From the roof is a sublime panorama of the cathedral. With the towers, appropriately comes a wall walk, continuing as a bridge across the Avenue de Chartres, which for all its grand airs is no more than a typical 1960s-style inner ring road.

side by a repeating diagonal pattern in the brick work, and the introduction of a "staircase" of transparent glass blocks in the tops of the tower walls. Each tower is painted bright yellow, blue, red or green, so returning motorists can locate their cars easily.

On the other three sides the concrete structure is less exposed. Intriguingly the concrete beams have a distinct tilt, to drain off rain water, giving them the zigzag outline of a railway car-carrier.

Internally, the architects have made a clever separation between cars and pedestrians. You berth at a pier as in a marina, and have free uninterrupted passage to the staircases and the wall walk to the town.

Birds, Portsmouth and Russum are all in their early thirties and were working in James Stirling's office when they won the competition and decided to set up on their own.

University news

London: Mr Adrian Shipwright has been appointed to the new chair of business law at King's College London, from March 3. He was previously a partner in the tax department of S. J. Berwin & Company.

Nottingham: Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following in July: DD: Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

LLD: Sir James Blyth, chief executive, The Boots Company; Sir Michael Corbridge, chairman, Trent Regional Health Authority; Mr Charles Mackie, university treasurer.

LLM: Mr Robert Graham, deputy registrar and secretary to the University's medical school.

DMes: Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, singer.

DLit: Ms Glenda Jackson, actress; Professor Laurie Taylor, professor of sociology, York University.

DLit: Professor Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, formerly chief executive, Universities Funding Council; Professor Clive Granger, professor of Econometrics, University of California at San Diego and a former professor at Nottingham.

Bradford: Sir Trevor Holdsworth, Chair-



Sir Trevor Holdsworth, new chancellor

man of National Power, will be installed as Chancellor of Bradford University today.

Following his installation in the Great Hall, he will confer honorary degrees on Mr John Briggs, pianist; Mr Peter Fletcher, managing director of Allied Colloids; Sir Gordon Jones, chairman of Yorkshire Water; and Mr Frank Mumby, former lecturer in music at Leeds University and piano tutor to Sir Trevor Holdsworth.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Allan Viller, Vicar, Embsay, to be Vicar, Littleport St George W. St John, Little Ouse, held with St Matthew (Ely). The Rev Richard Webb, Rector, Rougham and Beyton W. Hessest and Rushbrooke to be Priest-in-charge, Woodbridge St John (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich). The Rev Nicholas Whitehead, Assistant Curate, The Bournie, Parnham; to be Vicar, St Peter, Hersham (Guildford).

The Rev Alan Wilson, Vicar, Caversham St John; to be Rector, Sandhurst (Oxford).

Resignations and retirements The Rev Alan Arnold, Assistant Curate, Addlestone (Guildford); to retire as from 8 May.

The Rev Michael Brown, Vicar, St Peter and St Paul, Godalming (Guildford); to retire as from 30 September.

The Rev Philip Ind, Priest-in-charge, Hurley and Subbings (Oxford); to retire as from 31 March.

The Rev Canon Peter Lloyd, Vicar, St Martin, Epsom (Guildford); to retire as from 31 July.

Efficiency? the rub

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY MARCH 24 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

PRUDENTIAL



Prudential, the insurer that gambled on appointing an investment manager as chief executive, will know today whether painful decisions are beginning to pay off
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ARGOS SLIDES

Competition among retailers has cut profits at Argos but has not dented expansion plans
Page 21
Tempos, page 22

BAN LIFTED

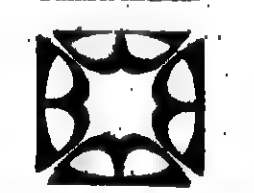


Stora, the Swedish paper group, is to lift its ban on foreign shareholders as Bo Berggren steps up to chairman
Page 20

BACK IN BLACK

The first reduction in bad debt provisions among the cleaners put the Co-operative Bank back into the black
Page 21

DRAWBACK



Brent Chemicals, which issued a profit warning in January, will draw on reserves to maintain its dividend
Page 28

Exports rise to highest since August

Rising imports keep trade gap above £1bn

BY COLIN NARRBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A CURRENT account deficit of £750 million in February, and a bigger January deficit than earlier reported, yesterday brought further disappointment to a City still recovering from last week's onslaught of mainly bad figures.

Poor trade figures have in the past contributed to election hopes, but the financial markets are currently focused on opinion polls rather than economic indicators. Share prices dropped after the trade figures were released at 11.30am, with the FT-SE 100 index down 23.4 points at its worst. At the close it had recovered to 2,441, down 15.6. But the pound firmed

against the mark, anchor currency of the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM). At the official London close it was at DM2.8046, up over a quarter of a pence from Friday, although still stuck at the bottom of the ERM table. Sterling also gained almost 2 cents to \$1.7203 and was 0.2 up on its trade-weighted index at 90.

The trade figures had been expected to show the current account deficit narrowing to about £450 million last month from a disturbingly large January shortfall, previously given as £794 million. But a substantially lower than expected projection for surplus on invisible items,

plus a deficit on visible trade still exceeding £1 billion, left the current account deficit uncomfortably high, given the weak state of the economy.

Imports, which were subdued by the recession, rose 6.4 per cent in February to £10.05 billion. Exports were up 8.6 per cent at £9 billion, the highest since August, giving a visible trade gap of £1.05 billion. Excluding oil and erratic items the visible deficit was £1.1 billion.

Chris Dillow, economist at Nomura Research, said this meant Britain had a larger underlying deficit than ever before at this point in the economic cycle. The last two recessions achieved current account surpluses.

The longer term trends, which compare the latest three months with the previous three, showed a current account deficit widening to £1.7 billion from £1.1 billion. The underlying trend in volume trade also shows a clear rise in imports, while export growth shows little sign of picking up after the spurt seen last summer. Export values over the latest three months were 1 per cent up on the previous three months, while import values were up 1.5 per cent.

John Major greeted rising imports of capital goods as a pointer to recovery, as companies prepared for the upturn. "What is excellent is the continued growth in exports," he said.

Economists fear that the pickup in imports indicates rising import penetration rather than preparation for increased domestic output. With export markets more subdued this year than in 1991, and imports expected to rise into a recovery, there is a widespread concern that the current account deficit could widen rapidly this year. The Budget forecast of a current account deficit of £6.5 billion this year is seen as over-optimistic, given the £1.6 billion deficit so far.

Germany offers no hope of rate cuts

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank is optimistic about slowing annual inflation in western Germany to below 4 per cent this year, according to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who attended last Thursday's session of the bank's policy-setting council.

However, his encouraging remarks, made in Bonn, were quickly followed by a comment from Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank vice-president, that appeared to rule out any early easing of German interest rates.

Herr Tietmeyer, speaking in London before attending a German chamber of commerce lunch, said there was "no likelihood that German monetary policy would change in the short term." German cost of living figures, due this week, are expected to show annual inflation exceeding February's 4.3 per cent.

Helmut Hesse, president of the regional central bank for Lower Saxony and a member

of the Bundesbank council, lent weight to Herr Tietmeyer's stance, by disclosing unpublished figures that show German M3 money supply growing 8.6 per cent in February after a 9 per cent increase in January. This compares with the Bundesbank's target growth corridor of 3.5 to 5.5 per cent.

Herr Hesse said it would be "extraordinarily difficult" to get the money supply growth in the target range. The current growth trend would not allow any cuts in official lending rate, he said. He forecast upward pressure on inflation if the pay round settlements are excessive.

Key German lending rates are at their highest for 40 years, which means that Germany's European partners are forced to keep interest rates high despite domestic economic conditions that would warrant interest rate cuts.



Growing not sinking: Bill Rooney is spending £102 million during the recession ready for the upturn

Pentagon 'bailed out' McDonnell Douglas

FROM JAMES DRYDEN IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon gave McDonnell Douglas, the defence contractor, more than \$200 million to bail it out of financial difficulties in 1990, an American government audit has revealed.

The payments and overall plan involved "significant non-compliance" with federal defence procurement regulations, but the defence department's inspector general, who carried out the audit, said it was unclear whether the plan and payments were illegal.

The audit said the Pentagon pursued six options in shifting money to the aerospace company at a time when it was in financial difficulties. The options included increasing the size of contracts, shifting costs between contracts and providing large advances.

The audit found that McDonnell received a \$148 million payment on the C-17 cargo jet programme in 1990 because the Air Force allowed the firm to shift the development costs.

In October 1990, another payment, which is now under congressional scrutiny, involving more than \$72 million, was made. A congressional committee is now investigating whether the Pentagon has provided any aid since.

John Conyers, the Democrat chairman of the House government operations committee, wrote to the inspector general recently asking him to provide a full account of how much money was funnelled to McDonnell and to discover who was involved in authorising the plan.

Congressional sources also said the committee is examining the navy's termination in early 1991 of the A-12 stealth attack aircraft programme to determine whether that was also part of the bailout plan. The Pentagon deferred its demand for a repayment of \$1.35 billion by McDonnell and its partner, General Dynamics, after the programme was cancelled.

Yesterday, a McDonnell spokeswoman said: "I am not aware of any secret bailout plan. Throughout the course of the C-17 programme, McDonnell Douglas received payments only for the work that was completed."

Bupa moves back into the black

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUPA, Britain's largest private medical insurance group, is back in the black, but only just. The group reported a £1.3 million pre-tax profit (£38 million loss) for 1991; the tax bill of £12.5 million meant the group had for the second year running to dig into its reserves.

Health insurance turned in a loss of £40.7 million (£61.7 million loss) but investment income, almost tripled to £21 million, cut the division's loss to £19.7 million.

Health services, which includes hospitals, health screening and the nursing agency, turned in a profit of £21 million (£15.4 million).

The group's reserves increased by 30 per cent to £311.8 million. This was due to the renegotiation of the price paid for Sanitas, the Spanish health insurance company acquired in 1989. This involved £40.6 million of goodwill being written back. Investment appreciation of £24 million, a fixed asset revaluation of £12.3 million and exchange-rate gains of £6 million completed the addition to the reserves.

The solvency ratio has increased from 31.4 per cent to 39.5 per cent almost double the minimum required by the trade department.

Mr Jacobs, who joined the group last May from British Sugar, said he wanted to "make the whole business operate on a more efficient and competitive basis". He continued: "All divisions in the group showed an improved performance which is a significant achievement at a time when the recession deepened and competition increased. Bupa has now firmly moved forward. It has a clear business strategy which will see the development of all our current business areas. The team which will bring this about is now in place."

Turnover for the group, which has 50 per cent of the health insurance market, topped £1 billion for the first time last year. During the year increased competition and higher premiums resulted in a net loss of 210,000 subscribers from 3.5 million. Private Patients Plan, Bupa's rival, is expected to report next month a post-tax profit for last year and an increase in subscribers.

Spring Ram bucks trend in DIY sector

BY MARTIN BARROW

BILL Rooney, chairman of Spring Ram Corporation, expects the kitchens and bathrooms maker to continue to defy the slump in the home improvement and building products sector.

The company, which increased pre-tax profits by 25 per cent to £37.6 million in 1991, is undergoing a £102 million expansion programme to double manufacturing capacity by 1993.

"The group is bristling with new ideas and opportunities within its chosen market sectors, both in the UK and selected overseas markets," said Mr Rooney. Turnover rose from £145.29 million to £194.17 million. The company sells about 20 per cent of its products through do-it-yourself chains and a further 20 per cent through builders' merchants. But its main distributors are smaller, independent shops.

The company ended the year with £45.3 million in cash, up from £31.3 million, despite investing £14 million in fixed assets and £16 million in key areas of working capital to support the development of new activities.

Tempos, page 22

Banker may join O&Y board

BY MATTHEW BOND IN LONDON AND PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

OLYMPIA & York, the Canadian property group, is planning to appoint a senior American banker to its main board. It has come under pressure from the world's banks to drop the secrecy that has traditionally surrounded the group's finances.

A high level appointment would reassure O&Y's banks as they consider a restructuring of the group's debts, estimated to be well over £310 billion (£5 billion). The company has held talks with Thomas S. Johnson, the former president of Manufacturers Hanover, the American investment bank, who would become the most senior non-family member of the board. No appointment, however, has yet been made.

O&Y is also expected to appoint JP Morgan, the investment bank, to co-ordinate the debt restructuring. Yesterday, JP Morgan said it had no comment to make on its involvement with the company.

On Sunday, O&Y admitted it faced a liquidity crisis, brought about by problems with its £3800 million commercial paper programme. Persistent rumours in recent weeks that O&Y would file for bankruptcy had prompted holders of the commercial paper to rush to redeem it. Funding these redemptions diverted money away from its intended use of paying for the remaining work still to be completed at Canary Wharf.

The liquidity problem was solved over the weekend, when a group of banks, including Barclays and Lloyds, advanced further facilities to O&Y, including £52 million earmarked for Canary Wharf. Barclays is managing the phased drawing down of the London element.

O&Y has also agreed further bank facilities that will enable it to stabilise its commercial paper programme, which will now be retired as they fall due.

Last week, O&Y was forced to withdraw the £215 million sale of one of the Canary Wharf buildings to an enterprise zone trust after the shortened Finance Act failed to include the legislative changes needed for the sale, and the group's fund raising dispute with Morgan Stanley is now likely to be settled in court.

In New York yesterday, analysts were estimating that the banks may have to writeoff between 20 and 30 per cent of their loans to O&Y. Banks owed \$500 million or more are believed to include the Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Imperial and Royal Bank of Canada, Citicorp - America's largest bank - Chemical Bank, Security Pacific, and the Japanese banks Sumitomo and Dai-ichi.

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Next comes the Davies 'magalogue'

BY RODNEY HOBSON



Making waves: George Davies yesterday

THE irrepressible George Davies is back. Three years after being ousted as boss of Next, the clothing retailer, in a blaze of acrimony, he is launching a new-style mail order catalogue.

He is spending more than £5 million on his new venture, a modest investment compared with the £25 million he had at his disposal when he took Next into the mail order business with Next Directory in January 1988. The intention, though, is the same: to make waves and to make money.

Mr Davies and his wife, Krystyna, set up George Davies Partnership, a fashion consultancy, after breaking

links with Next. They and associates are to bring out a 48-page, full colour monthly tabloid called *Xtend*, with clothes and accessories for men, women and children. "This is the first time, as far as I'm aware, that anyone in the world has done a mail order monthly," said Mr Davies.

Each edition of *Xtend* will be new, with clothes and fashions appropriate to the season and about 70 per cent of them different from the previous month.

Mr Davies called *Xtend* a "magalogue", as much magazine as catalogue, and said it aimed to be straightforward and fun with a few surprises. As well as fashion features, it

will contain a gardening section. A range of "classless clothes" will be offered, produced by the company's own designers, with prices ranging from £100 for a suede jacket to £5 for a set of briefs.

The magalogue will be distributed as an insert in a national newspaper and five regional papers, and Dillons, the bookshop, will sell copies at 30p.

Mr Davies admits he is competing with any company that sells clothes but denies he is rifling at Next, where he once earned £561,000 a year as chairman and chief executive. He lost his crown only 11 months after launching Next Directory.

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Stora to lift restrictions on foreign ownership

By COLIN NARBROUGH

STORA, the Swedish pulp and paper group that claims to be the world's oldest joint stock company, is about to lift the restrictions on foreign ownership of its shares.

The decision, to be put to the annual meeting on May 7, will be accompanied by a boardroom shuffle that represents the first withdrawal by Peter Wallenberg, scion of Sweden's powerful financial-industrial dynasty, from an important chairmanship in the Wallenberg empire.

Stora, which has its origins in a copper mining company dating from 1288, is the forestry products arm of the Wallenberg network. Investor, the Wallenbergs publicly listed investment company, holds 29 per cent of Stora, but in typically Swedish fashion, power has been exercised through control of the board.

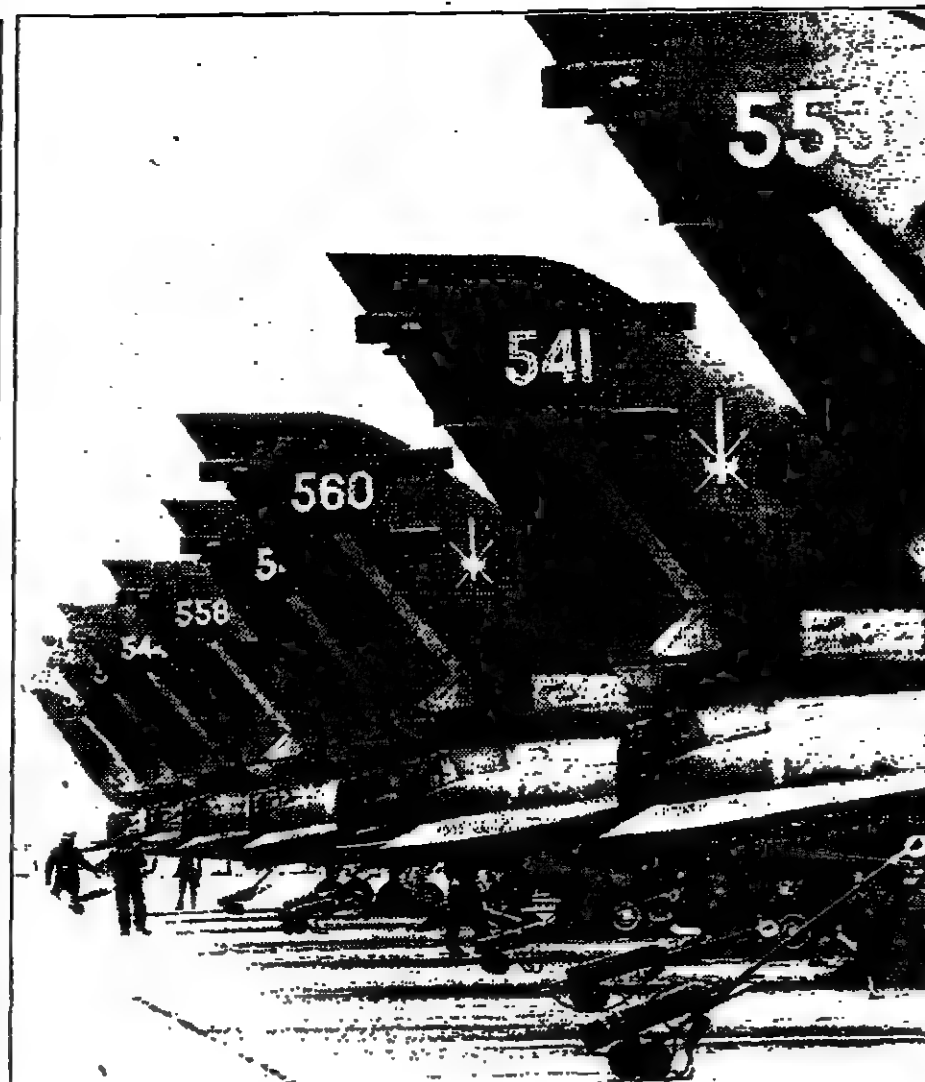
Mr Wallenberg, aged 65, underwent heart surgery last year, but has made a full recovery. Peter Bonda, his cousin, is also scheduled to resign from the Stora board at the meeting.

Bo Berggren, aged 56, president and chief executive, will become chairman. Mr Berggren, a corporate professional with no family connection, will remain chief executive for a transitional period.

Significantly, Mr Berggren was last month appointed vice-chairman of Investor. While Mr Berggren has long been considered heir apparent to Mr Wallenberg, continuity of management is to be underlined by the choice of Lars-Ake Helgesson, aged 50, as Mr Berggren's successor as president. He is also set to inherit the role of chief executive later. But the Wallenbergs have not withdrawn entirely. Waiting in the wings is Jacob Wallenberg, still in his thirties, who has been a board member since 1985.

In London last Friday, Mr Berggren and Mr Helgesson made no secret of the difficulty their company has been having with recession hitting many of its main markets. Pre-tax profits fell 61 per cent last year to Kr1.1 billion (£105.6 million), despite a 7.6 per cent climb in sales to Kr7 billion. But in the last four months, there was a pre-tax loss of Kr297 million, against a Skr1.1 billion profit in the same period of 1990.

Mr Berggren said this year "may be the bottom" for Stora. Given the cost-cutting measures and disposal programme it has undertaken, he expects the company to look "very attractive" in the years ahead.



Tail-end: UK weapons makers are said to lag in converting facilities to civil uses

Strategy urged for arms switch

BRITAIN'S defence manufacturers are falling behind in the international race to replace weapons factories with civil facilities because the government has failed to provide a clear lead, Oxford Research Group says (see Ross Tienman writes).

Delays in developing a strategy are costing jobs, because a switch of resources would lead to increased prosperity and employment, according to a report by Oxford Research Group. Its study, *Converting the Defence Industry*, calls for government initiatives to assist redirection of Britain's biggest industry.

Oxford Research Group, which is funded by charities, specialises in defence and security issues. In an analysis of parties' defence plans, the report concludes that defence spending might contract faster under a Conservative administration than a Labour one.

Road to recovery mapped by TNT

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

TNT, the global transport group, expects its European operations to halve their losses this financial year and return to profit next year.

Sir Peter Abeles, chief executive and deputy chairman, said yesterday that the group also hoped to return to record levels of profit in the next few years. TNT posted an interim loss of Aus\$1.05 million last year.

Sir Peter was speaking at a conference here called to mark the completion of TNT's European joint-venture express freight deal with five national post offices. He said it would be four to six weeks before it was clear how the joint-venture company, GD Net BV, was operating. But it was already exceeding expectations.

Sir Peter said Ansett Transport Industries, the airline jointly owned with The News Corporation should continue to improve, but would still make losses in the year to June 30. "It's starting to straighten out as we were planning," he added.

He revealed that last week's announcement of a deal with Federal Express group, based in America, was not included in the calculations and would be a bonus.

No financial details of the joint-venture company were released, but Sir Peter said it was capitalised at one unit of debt for one unit of equity, with US\$240 million for each partner in the shareholders' funds.

Bemrose makes more from reduced turnover

BEMROSE Corporation, the security and promotional printer, lifted pre-tax profits 3 per cent to £5.06 million in the year to end-December, despite a £2 million fall in turnover to £48.6 million. There was an extraordinary charge of £1.4 million, relating to closures and disposals. Gearing rose to 57 per cent (44 per cent). A maintained 7.45p final payout makes an unchanged 11.75p.

Rodger Booth, the chief executive, said: "Bemrose is performing strongly through the recession, and is well placed to take advantage of any economic upturn."

Astec loses £4.8m

ASTEC (BSR), the information technology and power supply products group, blames "the worst trading conditions for years" for the dive in trading profits to £800,000 (£7.7 million) in the year ended December. The company reports a pre-tax loss of £4.8 million, compared with a previous £4 million profit, after an exceptional charge of £2.2 million and a net interest charge of £3.4 million (£3.7 million). The company is passing its total dividend (0.7p). Astec (BSR) says the outlook for 1992 is uncertain, but that gearing has been reduced to 39.6 per cent (54.8 per cent).

Sunleigh goes aboard

SUNLEIGH, the USM-quoted leisure products group, is taking a controlling interest in Gavel Securities, a leading maker and distributor of Laser and Dart sailing dinghies and catamarans. Sunleigh is paying about £1.6 million for 62.6 per cent of Gavel, financed through a placing and open offer of 28 million new shares on a 7-for-16 basis, at 8p per share, with institutional investors to raise about £1.83 million. Sunleigh also unveiled increased pre-tax losses of £2.04 million for the year to end-December, against a deficit of £1.81 million. Turnover, affected by disposals, fell to £9.09 million (£19.9 million). Loss per share is trimmed to 3.15p (4.51p loss). Again there is no dividend.

Lloyd Thompson up

INCREASED brokerage income helped Lloyd Thompson Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, to a 31 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £5.67 million in the six months to end-December. New clients, new business from existing clients and the retention of existing business enabled the group to increase brokerage income 27 per cent to £17.1 million. Peter Lloyd, chairman, said progress was being maintained in the second half and full-year results would reflect continuing growth in all the group's business areas. The interim dividend is being raised to 1.65p, against 1.35p last time. Diluted earnings climb from 4.65p a share to 5.7p a share.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit Trust Name	Offer	Price	Yield	Assets	Manager
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS					
Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Growth	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey World	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey US	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Japan	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey South Africa	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Latin America	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Caribbean	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Pacific	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Growth	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Growth	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Income	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Income	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Property	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Property	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific World	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific World	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific US	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific US	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Japan	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Japan	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Europe	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Europe	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Asia	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Asia	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Australia	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
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Abbey Asia Pacific New Zealand	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific New Zealand	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific South Africa	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific South Africa	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Middle East	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Middle East	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Latin America	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Latin America	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Caribbean	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Caribbean	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Pacific	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Pacific	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Africa	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Africa	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
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Abbey Europe Pacific Asia Pacific	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Europe Pacific	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
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Abbey Asia Pacific Asia Pacific Growth	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Europe Pacific Asia Pacific Growth	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
Abbey Asia Pacific Europe Pacific Growth	100.00	100.00	5.10	£1.5m	Abbey Fund Managers Ltd
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TEMPUS

Brazil cruzeiro	3191.50-3193.81	Canada	11.73-11.75
Cyprus pound	0.9045-0.9046	Belgium (Com)	34.30-34.74
Poland zloty	7.1025-7.1025	Denmark	1.1922-1.1927
Greece drachma	265.00-332.85	Germany	6.4750-6.4800
Hong Kong dollar	13.2035-13.3029	France	5.6550-5.6550
India rupee	0.0025-0.0025	Italy	1.6400-1.6680
Kuwait dinar	0.0025-0.0025	Hong Kong	7.7422-7.7432
Malaysian ringgit	4.4144-4.4145	Japan	99.40-1.005
Mexico peso	1.2710-1.2710	Italy	1.251-1.253
New Zealand dollar	3.1718-3.1720	Netherlands	1.33-1.33
Saudi Arabia riyal	2.370-2.370	Malaysia	2.3710-2.3710
South Africa rand	2.8354-2.8319	Sweden	1.8785-1.8787
Switzerland franc	6.0150-6.1465	Singapore	1.6640-1.6640
U.S. dollar	0.9255-0.9266	Spain	165.05-165.15
U.S. dollar	0.9225-0.9265	Switzerland	6.025-6.025
U.S. dollar	0.9225-0.9265	Switzerland	1.5140-1.5158

Market Bank GTS * Lloyd's Bank

Base Rates: Clearing Rates 10% Finance Hk 11

Discount Market Swap: Overnight 10% Low 7 Week fixed 10%

Treasury bills: Cash-Buy: 2 1/2 10% 1 3/4 10% 1 3/4 10% 1 3/4 10% 1 3/4 10%

Prime Bank Bills (Over)	1 1/4 10%	2 1/4 10%	3 1/4 10%	6 1/4 10%	12 1/4 10%
Swiss Money Rates	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%
Interbank	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%
Overnight open 10% close 9%					

Local Authority Deals:

Swiss 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Swiss 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Dollar 4.35-4.30	4.35-4.30	4.37-4.35	4.37-4.35	4.37-4.35	4.37-4.35
Building Society Cds	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%

EXHIB: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Market: Make-up date Jan 31, 1992 Agreed

Reference rate Jan 1, 1992 to Jan 24, 1992 Scheme I: 1.175% Schemes II & III: 12.01%

Reference rate Jan 1, 1992 to Jan 24, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 10.713%

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Cost
Dollar:	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4
Deutschmark:	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4
Swiss:	10 1/4-9 1/4	10 1/4-9 1/4	10 1/4-9 1/4	10 1/4-9 1/4	10 1/4
Yen:	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4
Other:	5 1/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 1/4	5 1/4

Minimum Up \$337.50-\$338.00 **Close \$338.75-\$339.25** **High \$339.50-\$340.00**

Low \$337.50-\$338.00 **Range: \$338.50-\$339.50 (\$36.50-\$197.50)**

Overnight: \$40.00-\$41.50 (\$46.50-\$47.50) **Swiss \$41.50-\$42.50 (\$47.50-\$48.25)**

Settlement: \$331.50 (\$204.85) **Settlement: \$4.12 (\$2.95)** **Settlement: \$84.25 (\$49.10)**

Hot air over pay at British Gas

Popular singers, barely out of their teens, frequently earn more than the £435,000 now being paid to British Gas chairman Robert Evans. The fact attracts little comment and almost no outrage. What differentiates the two cases in the perceptions of the British people? Where it is jealousy and envy we should trouble ourselves no longer with the voices of protest.

It would be a pity, too, if such emotions were allowed to set the agenda for a rational debate about levels of top executive remuneration. On most international comparisons, Mr Evans's pay is by no means excessive for an enterprise as large as British Gas. Research funded with trade union backing shows that well over 100 executives in Britain earn more than £500,000. Mr Evans may have more security than most. But it is difficult to conclude that his pay is too high. Objections to the size of his pay cheque seem misguided or malevolent. Much closer to the mark would be some questioning of the way Mr Evans's salary has grown substantially over the past few years. Increases which are not clearly linked to performance or additional responsibility can be attacked more legitimately as less than fair.

At British Gas and the other privatised utilities, there was a need to adjust top salaries to the reality of a competitive market for private sector executives. If these companies were not to be stricken by a steady departure of their best talent to more congenial posts elsewhere. But at British Gas, the process, if not complete, has run much of its course.

The real failure of British Gas's board has to do not with absolute pay levels but with basic tests of leadership. When times are hard, pain should be shared as evenly as possible. Top men who exhort their juniors to greater endeavour for only modest extra reward are asking for trouble if they accept, without excellent reason, much more themselves.

Trade taboos

John Major was wise to get the main monthly batch of economic statistics out of the way early in the election campaign. Even the two figures that might have shown the upside of the recession have proved disappointing for the government. After Friday's standstill inflation rate, the modest recovery in the February balance of payments, from what seemed a rogue January deficit, suggests that was not such an exceptional figure after all. From the spring of last year, the deficit ran at less than £300 million in most months, but has already notched up £1.6 billion in the first two months of 1992. This relapse reflects the slowdown of overseas economies, especially Germany, rather than new trends at home. Exports were only 1.5 per cent higher in the past three months than in the previous three; imports, by comparison, were up 3 per cent.

Given that immediate cause, there is no reason to think the deterioration in trade should carry much immediate weight on the foreign exchanges, or have any implications for interest rates. The figures also look ripe for revision, not least on invisibles. Even so, it is significant that Britain can only come near to paying its way if the economy is running at a much lower rate than its main competitors.

Deficits on this scale may be easy to finance if there is broader confidence in economic policy, but jobs are equally at risk if the economy is run at half speed or if trade deficits pile up. Either relative wages are too high, or industry is uncompetitive in non-price terms or sterling was put into the exchange rate mechanism at too high a rate. Since the latter topic is taboo, any electoral debate is unlikely to be enlightening.

Mick Newmarch aims to change radically the Prudential's approach to doing business. William Kay looks at the options facing him

Today's annual results from Prudential Corporation, which operates Britain's biggest door-to-door insurance salesforce, could mark the end of the deck-clearing operation instituted by Mick Newmarch when he became chief executive nearly two years ago. In that time, he has pulled the Pru out of its painful involvement in estate agency and completed a drastic reorganisation of the 10,000-strong salesforce.

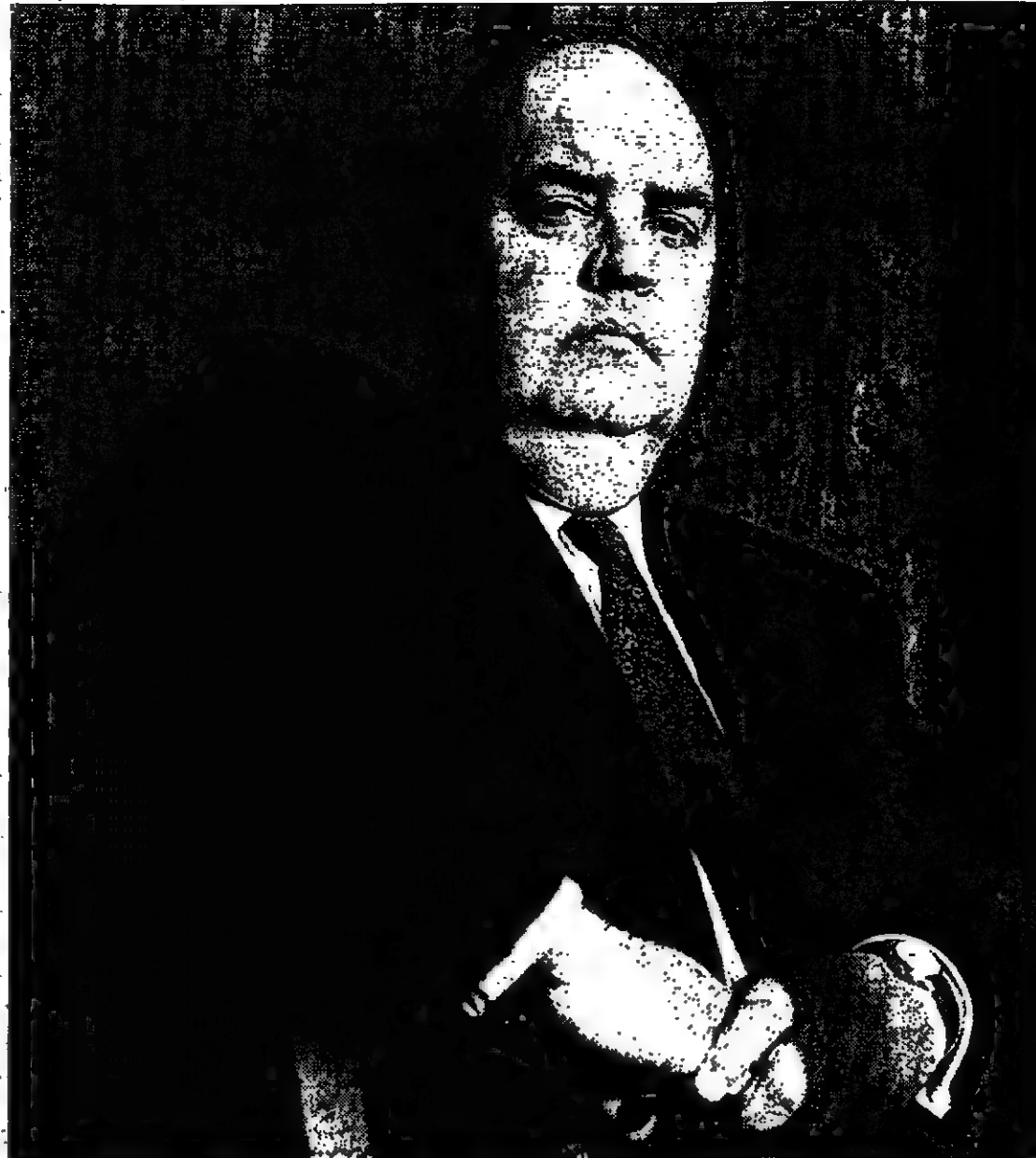
Life assurance in Britain is, however, a mature, even static, market, especially in the midst of a recession, when people are less inclined to commit themselves to avoidable spending. The group's general and reinsurance businesses have been assailed on all sides, from hailstones in Calgary to car thefts in Cardiff. The profits trend is still recovery, but that is due to a mixture of better management and the inevitable upturn in the investment and insurance cycles.

To a man of Mr Newmarch's meiste, that will not be enough. Aged 54, he joined the Pru in 1955 and probably has another six years to leave a lasting mark on the organisation. "I am proud of it," he says. "I admire its standards. But I'm going to be prouder of it." That is a significant statement from someone of Mr Newmarch's intense ambition to prove himself after a lifetime spent clawing his way up the corporate ladder.

The decision to make the bulky, quick-thinking, fast-talking Newmarch chief executive was in itself a departure. In the past, the top job has gone to insurers and actuaries, rather than an investment manager. He has already made dramatic inroads into the Pru's former sepulchral culture, which was reinforced by the echoing gloom of its Gothic 19th-century head office in Holborn, where seemingly endless corridors led round unpredictable corners into rooms more suited to the musings of philosophy than to tough decisions by insurance executives. The panelled boardroom even had a special cubby-hole for the secretary to listen and record minutes of what was said without actually being able to witness the proceedings.

Symbolically, all that is gone. Only the shell remains, while the innards are being rebuilt to suit the modern era. Meanwhile, Mr Newmarch has made a start on an organisational refit to match that physical facelift. One of his earliest decisions was to kill the ill-starred foray into estate agency.

On taking office, he said: "The estate agency business has always been cyclical. We will again have a lively and dynamic housing market



Via Holborn: Mick Newmarch, chief executive, intends to take the Pru into new markets

in this country, but the current market will exert pressures on some of the agency players."

As it turned out, the pressures told on the Pru. It made trading losses of £2.6 million through the estate agency in 1989 and 1990, and spent another £41.3 million winding it up. Mr Newmarch confessed: "In retrospect, we can now see that this business was inappropriately managed as market conditions became much worse than anything forecast. It also became clear to us that the opportunity for Prudential to cross-sell to an estate agency-focused customer base was much less significant than had been contemplated."

That was the key to the estate agency venture. It was an attempt to solve the biggest conundrum the Pru faces in this country: how to improve distribution of products and communication with the customer. While Newmarch was taking what price he could get for the estate agencies, he tried another tack — modernising the "Man from the Pru" salesforce.

The fallout seemed cataclysmic, especially for many of those who thought they were opting for the

quiet life when they joined the Pru. In October 1990, Mr Newmarch launched Scenario III, an ambitious plan to divide its field staff into two tiers. A new breed of 3,000 financial consultants was to be created. They were brought back into classrooms to learn how to concentrate on providing advice and clinching sales. The rest, called customer service representatives, were confined to the worthy but lesser tasks of collecting premiums and handling customer complaints.

The changes caused widespread tensions, which surfaced at last May's annual shareholders' meeting. One employee present, Valerie Ellison, a district officer's clerk in the Frome office, said: "I used to enjoy working for the company very much, but even I am finding the pressures pretty horrendous." Others said the increase in Mr Newmarch's salary, by 43 per cent to £544,000, had caused bitterness and resentment.

A spokesman admitted that one of the biggest internal reorganisations in the company's 140-year history, involving more than a third of its 25,000 staff, had "probably affected

morale". He commented: "The company is going through a great deal of change, and people do not welcome change because it brings uncertainty."

The feeling lingered. In June, the salesforce voted four-to-one for disruptive action, claiming the Pru had reneged on agreements over their pensions. The National Union of Insurance Workers, which claims 90 per cent membership among the salesforce, said management had abandoned a deal to improve pensions in return for an agreement to change working practices. A compromise was not reached until last autumn, by which time the group had forgone possibly £60 million in new annual premiums because of the disruption.

The thinking behind Scenario III is, however, hard to fault. Financial products are more complicated than when the man from the Pru started knocking on doors in the Twenties. Rivals use the "financial planning" approach, whereby the salesman extracts every drop of information about a client then sells a tailored portfolio of savings and insurance. That requires intensive training. Mr Newmarch was acutely con-

scious that the Pru was missing this higher margin business. The company was also failing to collect its proportionate share of the lucrative orders to be had from wealthier customers, most of whom disdain a knock at the door in favour of a discreet chat with an independent financial adviser, or IFA.

Last summer, Mr Newmarch set about wooing the IFAs with the Prudence Bond, a unitised with-profits bond that helped the group's single-premium sales to rise by a healthy £500 million to £3 billion for 1991. He is also pushing corporate pensions harder, offering a compendium of discrete products and services rather than one simple "take it or leave it" option.

None of this is designed to set the world alight. Life insurance is a mature market in Britain and is coming under increasing attack from banks, also eager to widen their sources of revenue. Roger Harvey, insurance analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said: "As the old joke goes, if I were them I wouldn't start from here. They are financially more secure than most life companies, but then the others are weak."

One obvious expansion route is to go abroad. The Pru is already in Australia, and six years ago it made a significant American move by buying Jackson National Life, which in December paid a maiden dividend of \$100 million. True to his roots, Mr Newmarch has started to give Prudential Portfolio Managers a global base by establishing a Chicago office that took responsibility for Jackson's investments. He is also believed to be casting eyes on the Asia Pacific region which, unlike Britain, has high economic growth and a young population. He regards continental Europe as "a long-term opportunity", which may be a euphemism for a low priority. But it is hard to be rid of the suspicion that Mr Newmarch has something more spectacular up his capacious sleeve.

At one time, the Pru was touted as a possible bidder for Midland Bank, but that is now almost certainly out of court. However, a well-chosen building society's customer list would be a goldmine, while simultaneously giving the group the high street presence it craved through estate agencies. Mr Newmarch dismisses such speculation, but admits he has been trying to "develop a total strategy for the Pru", and regularly chews the fat with his team of eight strategy experts.

Laurel Powers-Freeling, the 34-year-old American from Morgan Stanley who became head of corporate strategy in January, said: "Mick is committed to a complete re-examination of how we do our business." Within a few weeks she began a review of global strategy, which should be ready in June. That will crystallise a fundamental debate over the future of the group.

Could it be too much for Mr Newmarch's sense of showmanship to be able to resist unveiling a grand new initiative from the reconstructed Holborn head office this time next year? Now that would be symbolism of a high order.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

All manor of attractions

WHATEVER the outcome of the general election, flamboyant tycoon Peter de Savary is understood to be planning a move to America. To that effect, de Savary, aged 47, has placed Littlecote House, his Elizabethan mansion-cum-tourist attraction near Swindon, Wiltshire, on the market, inviting offers in the region of £6 million. For an additional £3 million, de Savary will throw in 180 acres of farmland, with planning permission for an 18-hole golf course. The grade one listed manor has its own Cromwellian chapel, coach house and trout stream, and comprises nine reception rooms, an indoor swimming pool, five cottages, two flats and a fourth-century Roman chapel. De Savary bought the property — then with 80 acres — from Sir David Seton Wills, the tobacco heir, for £7 million in 1985. He invested considerable sums of money, dismantling Frontier City, a replica wild west town built on an adjoining pig farm, and erected an Elizabethan theme park instead. That closed two years ago and his next venture, a £30 million scheme to turn Littlecote into an hotel, leisure club and golf course was also unsuccessful.

Trader's placing

WILD fluctuations in the price of banking shares today should not necessarily be cause for alarm. In the run-up to the "trading places" challenge on Friday, in which thousands of people will swap jobs for the day, Smith New Court is bringing in a social worker to help man its mar-



strategic objective in the restructuring of its team. Acknowledged as the brains behind some of the biggest global sponsorship deals linking branded products to racing car marquee, Edwards is also about to publish a book on sport sponsorship.

BURMAH Castrol is flushed with success after the £44 million disposal of business that once belonged to Fosseco, but it is sheepish about the one left behind. It has yet to find a buyer for Celmec, Britain's largest toilet seat manufacturer.

Renold's Reynolds

IF CONFUSING the enemy is half the battle, then Renold, the chain and gear manufacturer, is well on its way to defeating an anticipated takeover bid from TT Group, the industrial holding company. The acquisitive TT sent alarm bells ringing at Renold by snapping up a 5 per cent stake in the company. To make matters worse, Renold discovered it shared the same financial public relations adviser with TT at Walter Judd and swiftly named a replacement. The search led to Shandwick, where John Reynolds, a director, has picked up the gauntlet. His crash course in Renold's past included, as fate would have it, consultations with John Reynolds of Schroders, who acts as financial adviser to Renold. Thus Reynolds and Reynolds declared themselves ready to defend Renold. The two Reynolds helped Davenish beat Boddington last year and they believe they can pull it off again.

CAROL LEONARD

Academics who are neither objective nor reliable

From Mr Ian Brindle

Sir, I had thought the benefit of academic opinion was that it was formulated through objective consideration of reliable evidence. The article "Watchdogs must be forced to bark" by three accountancy academics on your Accountancy Times page (March 19) spoils that belief. I would not disagree with the authors that the accountancy profession has much to do properly to meet the expectations of the public. However,

Auditing regime

From the President, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

Sir, I am writing to take up one of the points made in the Comment column, "Spotlight on the regulators" (March 16), where you refer to the regulation of auditors. Each of the three institutes of chartered accountants was recognised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry as a supervisory body for auditors under the Companies Act last summer. As such, they are responsible for the regulation of almost all those firms who wish to be eligible to accept appointment as company auditors.

The Minister of State at the DTI, in granting recognition to the institutes, made it clear that the new regulatory regime will be judged on its success in raising audit performance and that this requires continuing work on developing the guidelines and standards, both technical and ethical, which auditors are required to observe, and effective arrangements for identifying and dealing with those whose performance is not satisfactory. He also concluded

the authors fail to acknowledge the strenuous efforts now being made by such bodies as the Financial Reporting Council, the Accounting Standards Board and the Auditing Practices Board, all of which are making determined efforts to attack many of the problems. But, worse than that, the article is based on a series of totally incorrect and unfounded assertions, the most extraordinary of which is the statement that "Auditors remain unaccount-

able and none are prosecuted for delivering audits that were as worthless as they are costly." Tell that to the lawyers and the underwriters!

I think I have found the first cuckoo of spring lurking amongst the City pages — or perhaps the article was meant to appear on the first of April!

Yours faithfully, IAN BRINDLE, Senior Partner, Price Waterhouse, 32 London Bridge Street, SE1.

that it would be appropriate to review the operation of the regime after two years, in the autumn of 1993. It is important to recognise the extent to which this regime represents a radical departure from the past. For the first time, the institutes have the power of direct inspection over audit work carried out by firms.

The institutes, the firms and the government will undoubtedly learn from the early experiences of the new regime, but in the meantime I urge commentators to resist the temptation to keep on pulling up the plant in order to examine the roots. The system needs to be given time to establish itself. Attempts to discredit it *ab initio* can only damage its chances of success.

Yours faithfully, IAN R. McNEIL, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, EC2.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

THE TIMES

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Interim Results

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1991

	£'000	%
TURNOVER	17,074	+27%
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	6,673	+31%
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	5.70p	+23%
DIVIDEND	1.65p	+22%

*After adjustment for capitalisation issue in Nov 1991.

For a copy of the 1992 Interim Report please contact:

The Secretary, Beaufort House
15 St. Botolph Street, London EC3A 7LT
Telephone 071 247 2345

Yours faithfully,
GUY LIARDET,
Director, Public Affairs,
Chemical Industries
Association,
Smith Square, SW1.

ACT BEFORE
27TH MARCH

M&G NEW PEP FOR 1991/92

The M&G New PEP allows investors who have not yet subscribed to a PEP in this tax year to invest up to £6,000 now. It is designed for people who are looking for a good long term investment free of all income and capital gains taxes. You are eligible if you are over 18 and resident in the UK for tax purposes. A husband and wife can each apply.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. **DEFINITIONS**
 - (1) "Shareholder" means a person who is a shareholder of M&G Ltd.
 - (2) "Investment" means a sum of money invested in the form of shares or other securities.
 - (3) "Investment Manager" means a person who is authorised to manage the investment on behalf of the investor.
 - (4) "Investment Plan" means a plan for the investment of money in the form of shares or other securities.
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Underlying investment is in M&G Recovery Investment Trust P.L.C., a new split capital investment trust with a planned life of ten years. The investment objective will be to provide Package Unit holders with an attractive total return from investing in the shares of companies which show potential for "recovery" but which are going through a difficult period, as well as from the income produced from those shares.

The Manager will continually seek new holdings to replace those where the prospects of recovery appear to have been fulfilled or where they seem to have been ill-founded. The Company's portfolio will be managed by M&G Investment Management Limited along similar lines to the existing M&G Recovery unit trust. Package Units are being offered by the Company at 100p each. Each Package Unit will consist of one Zero Dividend Preference Share, one Income Share and one Capital Share.

Investment in the Package Unit will equate to investing in an ordinary share in an investment trust without a split capital structure. Package Units are designed to offer investors capital growth and growing income over the life of the Company. The initial forecast annual gross dividend yield at the offer price of 100p is 5%.

New Investors If you have not already subscribed to a general PEP for the 1991/92 tax year you can put between £1,000 and £6,000 of Package Units in the M&G PEP. You must apply between 2nd and 27th March 1992.

Remember this opportunity closes at 2.00 p.m. on 27th March 1992 after which date applications will not be accepted. Please note that investments can only be made in multiples of £1,000. Existing PEP Holders With effect from 3rd April 1992 condition 22(6)(a) of the PEP Terms and Conditions is amended to that contained in this advertisement. If you already have an M&G PEP which was not introduced through a financial adviser, M&G will be sending you a special form.

Income Dividends from M&G Recovery Investment Trust P.L.C. will be paid quarterly. In addition, there will be four tax repayments from the Inland Revenue each year. You can choose either to have all of these paid automatically into your bank account or to have them reinvested in further Package Units of M&G Recovery Investment Trust P.L.C., thus enhancing the value of your PEP. Initial Charge There is no initial charge for the PEP. The promotional costs payable by M&G Recovery Investment Trust P.L.C. will be 3.99% of the price of each Package Unit. This represents a fee to M&G Financial Services Limited for promoting the Company out of which it will pay all marketing

costs and commissions.

If you choose the reinvestment option, there will be a charge of 5% plus VAT deducted from the sum reinvested.

Annual Charge M&G Recovery Investment Trust P.L.C. pays an annual investment management fee to M&G Investment Management Limited of 0.75% plus VAT and a custodian fee, estimated to be 0.015% plus VAT, to Clydesdale Bank P.L.C.; both calculated on the net assets of the Company. M&G PEP holders pay an additional annual management charge of 0.25% plus VAT to M&G Financial Services Limited.

How to Apply for the M&G PEP Complete the PEP application form and send it with your cheque or banker's draft to be received no later than 2.00 p.m. on 27th March, 1992 at National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, PO Box 663, Hartcliffe Way, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU. Applications received after that date will be returned.

Cashing in your Plan You can sell all or part of your holdings at any time by sending written instructions to us. If we receive your instructions before 11.00 a.m. the Package Units will be sold in the market at about 2.30 p.m. that day at the market price. Instructions received after 11.00 a.m. will be treated as received on the following business day. Reinvestment of these proceeds within your M&G PEP is not possible.

Further Information We will write to you confirming your investment towards the end of April. You will receive the annual and half yearly Report and Accounts of the Company when they are published. Twice each year we send you a statement and valuation of your Plan made up to 5th April and 5th October.

Prices of Package Units will be quoted in the Financial Times. The price of shares and Package Units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You may not get back the amount you invested. The value to you of the tax benefits of a PEP will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

Your rights as a planholder are defined by the Terms and Conditions of the M&G Personal Equity Plan set out in this document.

The Plan Manager is M&G Financial Services Limited, a member of IMRO, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Telephone (0245) 266266.

M&G Investment Management Limited is a member of IMRO. M&G Securities Limited, the manager of the unit trust referred to, is a member of IMRO and Lauto.

NOTES FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE M&G NEW 1991/92 £6,000 PEP APPLICATION FORM

If you have already subscribed to a 1991/92 general PEP with a manager other than M&G you cannot invest in the M&G PEP under this offer for the current tax year.

1. This application form is designed to be submitted to the tax year running from 6th April 1991 to 5th April 1992.
2. Your National Insurance number can be found on your pay slip. It will have the format: 2 letters, 6 numbers, 1 letter.
3. If a person's National Insurance number is acceptable, this can be found in your pension book or, if paid directly into your bank account, will appear on your bank statement. A National Insurance number is NOT acceptable.
4. This application and nomination MUST be for round thousand Package Units with a maximum of 6000 package units (i.e. 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000 or 6000). If you subscribe for more Package Units than you are legally permitted to subscribe for under M&G PEP, the excess Package Units, in round thousands, will be held outside your M&G PEP and you will receive a certificate for them.
5. The Terms and Conditions of Application set out in the accompanying document dated 14th February 1992 are read and supplemented as follows:

1992 are read and supplemented as follows:

- a) You authorise National Westminster Bank PLC and M&G Financial Services Limited to take all steps and execute all such documents on your behalf as may be necessary in connection with your nomination of Package Units.
- b) The addressee National Westminster Bank PLC is to send a document of title for the number of Package Units held by you to M&G Financial Services Limited and procure that M&G Financial Services Limited is placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such Package Units with effect from 5th April 1992.
- c) Your cheque or banker's draft for this application must be payable to "NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC A/C M&G OFFER" and crossed "NOT NEGOTIABLE".
- d) Your completed application and cheque or banker's draft must be received by 2.00 p.m. on 27th March 1992 at National Westminster Bank PLC, Register's Department, New Issues Section, PO Box 663, Hartcliffe Way, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU.
- e) If you apply to open a PEP for 1991/92 and to subscribe to it in 1992/93 then the latter application is conditional on the 1991/92 application not being withdrawn. If the 1991/92 application is withdrawn you will receive a direct certificated holding in the Company for the total of your subscriptions.

APPLICATION FORM THE M&G NEW 1991/92 £6000 PEP

The application for Package Units contained in this form cannot be withdrawn. An application, using this form, to open a PEP may be withdrawn by returning the accompanying withdrawal slip to the Plan Manager at any time prior to 5th April 1992. Full details and Terms and Conditions of the PEP including a copy of this application form are attached.

Please send the completed form to:
National Westminster Bank PLC, Register's Department,
New Issues Section, PO Box 663, Hartcliffe Way, Hartcliffe, Bristol
BS99 1XU, who so far as this is an application to open a PEP will hold
this form on your behalf until 26th March 1992, when it will be passed
over to the Plan Manager.

To M&G Recovery Investment Trust P.L.C.

I offer to subscribe for Package Units (see note 3 above) in M&G Recovery Investment Trust P.L.C. at the price of 100p per Package Unit on the Terms and Conditions of Application set out in the accompanying document dated 14th February, 1992. (See such Terms and Conditions are written and supplemented by the terms of this application form, and in particular note 4 above).

I enclose my cheque or banker's draft made payable to "National Westminster Bank PLC A/C M&G OFFER" and crossed "NOT NEGOTIABLE" for .

I hereby nominate on 5th April 1992 (subject to revocation before that date), the Package Units to M&G Financial Services Limited to hold in my PEP.

To M&G Financial Services Limited
I wish to make a subscription to my existing M&G PEP for the tax year ending 5th April 1992 or, if I do not have such a plan then I wish to open an M&G PEP for the tax year ending 5th April 1992.

I declare that:

- (a) I am aged 18 years or over.
- (b) I am resident and ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes or, though non-resident, perform duties which by virtue of Section 132(4)(a) of the Taxes Act (Former Employees serving overseas) are treated as being performed in the United Kingdom.
- (c) I have not subscribed to any other general Personal Equity Plan in or for the tax year ending 5th April 1992 nor any future tax year.
- (d) I will not subscribe to any other general Personal Equity Plan for any tax year for which I subscribe or shall subscribe to this Plan.
- (e) I will inform M&G Financial Services Limited promptly of any change in my circumstances which affects any of the above.

I hereby authorise M&G Financial Services Limited:

- (a) to hold my cash subscriptions and the Plan investments, distributions, dividends, interest, cash and any other rights or proceeds received in respect of them in the Personal Equity Plan;
- (b) to make all appropriate claims for tax relief in respect of Plan investments on my behalf;
- (c) on my written request to transfer or pay to me any Plan investments, interest, cash, distributions, dividends, rights or proceeds in respect of such investments held in the Plan or other proceeds in respect of such investments held in the Plan.

I agree that a Personal Equity Plan opened by the Plan Manager pursuant to this Application will be governed by the Terms and Conditions set out in the accompanying advertisement.

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above information is true and correct.

Signature Date 1992

Professional Adviser (if applicable)

M&G Ref No.

VCD ☐

Pin your cheque or banker's draft here.

IMPORTANT! Your M&G Personal Equity Plan application and nomination cannot be accepted without your National Insurance Number OR National Pension Number (see note 2 above).

National Insurance No.

OR National Pension No.

Tax District (if known)

Reference No. (if known)

If you wish to attend and vote at shareholders' meetings and to receive additional information issued to shareholders, please indicate "Y" in this box: ☐

Your dividends and tax credits will be reinvested automatically in your Plan unless you want them paid direct to your bank account in which case please indicate "N" in this box and a dividend mandate will be sent in due course. ☐

Date

Only return this form if you wish to withdraw your application for an M&G PEP. This form must be received before 5th April 1992 at Planned Savings Department, M&G Financial Services Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. I wish to withdraw my application for an M&G Personal Equity Plan.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms/Other

Full Name

Surname

Permanent Address

Postcode

Signature

THE M&G NEW £6,000 PEP FOR 1991/92

THE M&G NEW PEP FOR 1992/93

MARCH 24 1992

THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 24 1992

EQUITY PRICES 27

PLC

RM
UST PLC

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them to the price on the overall total and check against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of the card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Champion Gas	Gas	1.10
2	Bridon	Industrial	1.10
3	Freeman Co	Building	1.10
4	PGF Holdings	Industrial	1.10
5	Inverclyde	Building	1.10
6	Sine Darby	Building	1.10
7	Bardays	Banking	1.10
8	Hammar	Drugs	1.10
9	MTM	Chemicals	1.10
10	Almwood	Building	1.10
11	MLH Ltd	Industrial	1.10
12	New London	Oil	1.10
13	Shelley Mtr	Metals	1.10
14	Elbridge P.A.	Building	1.10
15	Scott & New	Building	1.10
16	Castle Green	Building	1.10
17	Oronside Cyp	Building	1.10
18	Shaw & Fisher	Building	1.10
19	Ashtley Group	Food	1.10
20	ULI Group	Food	1.10
21	Amber Day	Drugs	1.10
22	Jardine Math	Industrial	1.10
23	Bernice	Paper	1.10
24	Exp Co Ltd	Oil	1.10
25	Tipton	Transport	1.10
26	BAA	Transport	1.10
27	BET Oil	Industrial	1.10
28	ICI	Chemicals	1.10
29	Br Michel	Textiles	1.10
30	TNT	Transport	1.10
31	Bees Chem	Chemicals	1.10
32	Millar C	Industrial	1.10
33	Whitworth R	Chemicals	1.10
34	Yorkshire	Textiles	1.10
35	Adco	Industrial	1.10
36	BOC	Industrial	1.10
37	Guthrie	Building	1.10
38	Rowat	Industrial	1.10
39	CRG Co	Textiles	1.10
40	Br Airways	Transport	1.10
41	Eve Group	Building	1.10
42	BICC	Building	1.10
43	Hardwood P	Food	1.10
44	Burnfield	Industrial	1.10

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any release signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your dividend for the weekly dividend of £3.00 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mrs Joyce Pretty, of Bourne-
mouth, won the £2,000 Portfolio
Platinum prize yesterday.

1991/92 High Low Company Price % Chg % P/E

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
111	111	111	Alloy	111	0	0
112	112	112	Alloy	112	0	0
113	113	113	Alloy	113	0	0
114	114	114	Alloy	114	0	0
115	115	115	Alloy	115	0	0
116	116	116	Alloy	116	0	0
117	117	117	Alloy	117	0	0
118	118	118	Alloy	118	0	0
119	119	119	Alloy	119	0	0
120	120	120	Alloy	120	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
121	121	121	Alloy	121	0	0
122	122	122	Alloy	122	0	0
123	123	123	Alloy	123	0	0
124	124	124	Alloy	124	0	0
125	125	125	Alloy	125	0	0
126	126	126	Alloy	126	0	0
127	127	127	Alloy	127	0	0
128	128	128	Alloy	128	0	0
129	129	129	Alloy	129	0	0
130	130	130	Alloy	130	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
131	131	131	Alloy	131	0	0
132	132	132	Alloy	132	0	0
133	133	133	Alloy	133	0	0
134	134	134	Alloy	134	0	0
135	135	135	Alloy	135	0	0
136	136	136	Alloy	136	0	0
137	137	137	Alloy	137	0	0
138	138	138	Alloy	138	0	0
139	139	139	Alloy	139	0	0
140	140	140	Alloy	140	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
141	141	141	Alloy	141	0	0
142	142	142	Alloy	142	0	0
143	143	143	Alloy	143	0	0
144	144	144	Alloy	144	0	0
145	145	145	Alloy	145	0	0
146	146	146	Alloy	146	0	0
147	147	147	Alloy	147	0	0
148	148	148	Alloy	148	0	0
149	149	149	Alloy	149	0	0
150	150	150	Alloy	150	0	0

Shares close off the bottom

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end April 3. Settlement day April 13. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on mid prices.

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
151	151	151	Alloy	151	0	0
152	152	152	Alloy	152	0	0
153	153	153	Alloy	153	0	0
154	154	154	Alloy	154	0	0
155	155	155	Alloy	155	0	0
156	156	156	Alloy	156	0	0
157	157	157	Alloy	157	0	0
158	158	158	Alloy	158	0	0
159	159	159	Alloy	159	0	0
160	160	160	Alloy	160	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
161	161	161	Alloy	161	0	0
162	162	162	Alloy	162	0	0
163	163	163	Alloy	163	0	0
164	164	164	Alloy	164	0	0
165	165	165	Alloy	165	0	0
166	166	166	Alloy	166	0	0
167	167	167	Alloy	167	0	0
168	168	168	Alloy	168	0	0
169	169	169	Alloy	169	0	0
170	170	170	Alloy	170	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
171	171	171	Alloy	171	0	0
172	172	172	Alloy	172	0	0
173	173	173	Alloy	173	0	0
174	174	174	Alloy	174	0	0
175	175	175	Alloy	175	0	0
176	176	176	Alloy	176	0	0
177	177	177	Alloy	177	0	0
178	178	178	Alloy	178	0	0
179	179	179	Alloy	179	0	0
180	180	180	Alloy	180	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
181	181	181	Alloy	181	0	0
182	182	182	Alloy	182	0	0
183	183	183	Alloy	183	0	0
184	184	184	Alloy	184	0	0
185	185	185	Alloy	185	0	0
186	186	186	Alloy	186	0	0
187	187	187	Alloy	187	0	0
188	188	188	Alloy	188	0	0
189	189	189	Alloy	189	0	0
190	190	190	Alloy	190	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
191	191	191	Alloy	191	0	0
192	192	192	Alloy	192	0	0
193	193	193	Alloy	193	0	0
194	194	194	Alloy	194	0	0
195	195	195	Alloy	195	0	0
196	196	196	Alloy	196	0	0
197	197	197	Alloy	197	0	0
198	198	198	Alloy	198	0	0
199	199	199	Alloy	199	0	0
200	200	200	Alloy	200	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
201	201	201	Alloy	201	0	0
202	202	202	Alloy	202	0	0
203	203	203	Alloy	203	0	0
204	204	204	Alloy	204	0	0
205	205	205	Alloy	205	0	0
206	206	206	Alloy	206	0	0
207	207	207	Alloy	207	0	0
208	208	208	Alloy	208	0	0
209	209	209	Alloy	209	0	0
210	210	210	Alloy	210	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
211	211	211	Alloy	211	0	0
212	212	212	Alloy	212	0	0
213	213	213	Alloy	213	0	0
214	214	214	Alloy	214	0	0
215	215	215	Alloy	215	0	0
216	216	216	Alloy	216	0	0
217	217	217	Alloy	217	0	0
218	218	218	Alloy	218	0	0
219	219	219	Alloy	219	0	0
220	220	220	Alloy	220	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
221	221	221	Alloy	221	0	0
222	222	222	Alloy	222	0	0
223	223	223	Alloy	223	0	0
224	224	224	Alloy	224	0	0
225	225	225	Alloy	225	0	0
226	226	226	Alloy	226	0	0
227	227	227	Alloy	227	0	0
228	228	228	Alloy	228	0	0
229	229	229	Alloy	229	0	0
230	230	230	Alloy	230	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
231	231	231	Alloy	231	0	0
232	232	232	Alloy	232	0	0
233	233	233	Alloy	233	0	0
234	234	234	Alloy	234	0	0
235	235	235	Alloy	235	0	0
236	236	236	Alloy	236	0	0
237	237	237	Alloy	237	0	0
238	238	238	Alloy	238	0	0
239	239	239	Alloy	239	0	0
240	240	240	Alloy	240	0	0

Portfolio

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1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
241	241	241	Alloy	241	0	0
242	242	242	Alloy	242	0	0
243	243	243	Alloy	243	0	0
244	244	244	Alloy	244	0	0
245	245	245	Alloy	245	0	0
246	246	246	Alloy	246	0	0
247	247	247	Alloy	247	0	0
248	248	248	Alloy	248	0	0
249	249	249	Alloy	249	0	0
250	250	250	Alloy	250	0	0

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
251	251	251	Alloy	251	0	0
252	252	252	Alloy	252	0	0
253	253	253	Alloy	253	0	0
254	254	254	Alloy	254	0	0
255	255	255	Alloy	255	0	0
256	256	256	Alloy	256	0	0
257	257	257	Alloy	257	0	0
258	258	258	Alloy	258	0	0
259	259	259	Alloy	259	0	0
260	260	260	Alloy	260	0	0

56	TR Far East	58%	- 1/2	4.2	6.3	18.4
90	TR City Of Lon	104	- 1/2	..	6.2	22.2
49	TR Pacific	88	+ 1/2
23	TR Property	23	- 1/2	1.4	6.4	22.1
20	TR Tech Inv	31	- 1/2	..	8.0	3.0
98	TR Smir Cos	129	- 1/2	3.7	3.6	29.8
315	Tennessee Riv	244	- 2	1.0	7.0	17.2

Changes eat profit at Brent Chemicals

BY MARTIN BARROW

BRENT Chemicals International, which issued a profit warning in January, eight weeks after a £15.6 million rights issue, saw taxable profits fall 60 per cent last year.

Pre-tax profits fell to £8.4 million (£13 million) after an exceptional restructuring charge of £3.16 million. Earnings fell to 2.9p a share (13.4p), leaving uncovered the maintained dividend of 7.34p, including an unchanged final of 5.8p. The shares, 160p a year ago, rose 4p to 122p.

Steve Cuthbert, the chief

executive, said that dividend cover was eroded by the impact of the exceptional charge, which under former accountancy guidelines would have been treated as an extraordinary charge. "We expect to maintain this level of dividend and obviously hope to increase it as soon as conditions improve," he said.

Although sales rose to £100 million (£89.7 million), helped by acquisitions, trading profits fell to £7.96 million (£10.6 million). Earnings were further eroded by a decline in investment income

from £2.39 million to £441,000, although the company ended the year with net cash of £10.5 million (£10.8 million).

Mr Cuthbert said: "We have made considerable progress in the last three years to focus our businesses on markets with good long-term growth potential. We were disappointed by the poor demand experienced in the last two months of 1991, although this has been alleviated by a stronger performance in the first two months of this year."

Profits from Brent's industrial businesses fell to £5.12 million (£7.62 million), showing the impact of difficult trading conditions in metal finishing, aerospace and electronics.

The integration of the recently acquired Chemicals Way Corporation, of America, and Hebro Chemie GmbH, of Germany, will reduce exposure to depressed British markets. Packaging, including inks, coatings and pre-press services, earned £4 million, up from £3.4 million.



Buoyed-up: The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, the ferry group where Norman Corlett, the chairman (above), and his board are under threat of a renewed bid from Sea Containers, had a record year in 1991, raising pre-tax profits from £3.3 million to £4.1 million.

David Dixon, managing director, said Steam Packet reversed a ten-year downward trend by raising its share of passenger arrivals on scheduled services from 47.5 to 50.5 per cent. "Prospects for 1992 are rosier than the depths of the recession might suggest," said Mr Dixon. "Our passenger business is continuing to grow beyond the highest levels achieved early last year and freight carryings are holding up well, with the Isle of Man appearing so far to have escaped the worst of the recession."

Steam Packet operated fewer ships and achieved higher load factors, and the upgrading of the fleet continued with a £1 million refit of the King Orry ferry. Turnover rose from £22.4 million to £24.11 million and trading profits from £3.53 million to £4.33 million. Earnings rose from 19.3p to 23.6p a share. A final 7p dividend makes 10p for the year, against 8p. Sea Containers, which owns 41 per cent of Steam Packet, was freed to rebid for the company in January after a three-month standstill.

Hongkong Land advances

FROM LUI YU IN HONG KONG

HONGKONG Land, the colony's biggest landlord, has revealed an 11 per cent rise in 1991 profits and plans to shift its primary listing to London, in line with the rest of the Jardine Matheson group.

After-tax profits rose to US\$298.1 million, from \$267.7 million in 1990, and were further boosted by an extraordinary gain of \$115.8 million from the sale of commercial buildings outside the central business district.

Earnings increased 10 per cent to 11.58 cents a share. And a final dividend of 6.15 cents per share will be paid, making a total of 9 cents, up 9 per cent.

The figures, at the upper end of market expectations, showed the company's earnings growth was slowing because of soft rentals and an oversupply of office blocks.

Simon Keswick, the chairman, said: "Capacity for earnings growth in 1992 is likely to be limited."

The company has a low gearing, with net borrowings at the year end of about \$350 million, or 8 per cent of shareholders' funds.

P-E maintains payout

P-E International, the management and computer consultant, is maintaining its dividend despite suffering a 61.5 per cent fall in full-year profits (Philip Pangalos writes). Pre-tax profits fell to £1.62 million (£4.21 million) in the year to end-December.

The decline was exacerbated by higher interest costs of \$404,000 (£207,000) and an

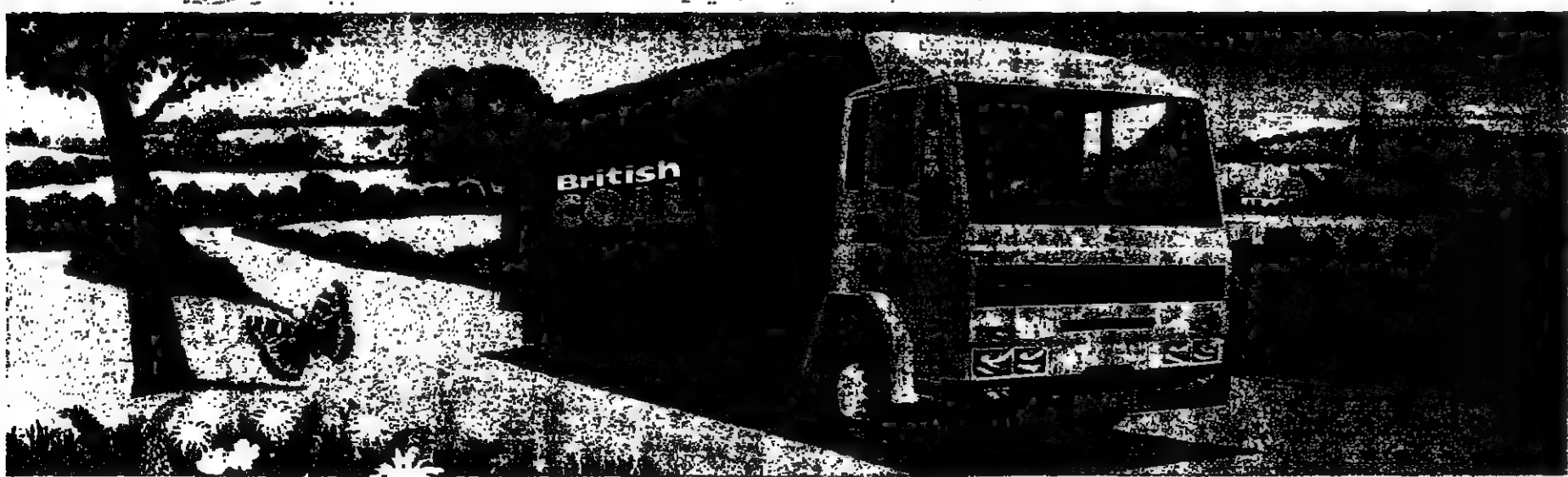
exceptional charge of £541,000, arising from redundancy costs. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £68.8 million. Gearing increased from 6 per cent to 22 per cent.

The final dividend is being maintained at 4.2p, giving shareholders an unchanged total of 6.2p for the year. Earnings fell from 15p to 4.9p a share.

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INDUSTRIAL SALES

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

Redundancy set to follow rise in overcapacity

THE European Commission's latest industrial survey reveals increasing overcapacity throughout the EC and growing numbers of companies considering laying off workers.

The figures, which are for January, show that the Community's industry was operating at only 80.5 per cent of capacity, compared with 81.4 per cent a year earlier. No where was the situation gloomier than in Britain, where 48 per cent of respondents said their capacity was "more than sufficient" to meet any rise in demand.

The survey, compiled by the commission's Eurstat agency, also found a 25 per cent year-on-year increase in the number of companies planning lay-offs, although there is no country-by-country breakdown.

□ The French motor industry claims there has been an upturn in European car sales. Figures from 17 EC and European Free Trade Association countries revealed a sales jump of about 3 per cent in February compared with a year earlier. There were 1.12 million new registrations in February, combined with January, the figure is 2.35 million, a 2.2 per cent increase from the first two months of last year.

No recovery, however, is evident in Britain, where sales slipped 8.6 per cent in January and February, with 263,000 new registrations. The biggest increases were in Spain (up 29.7 per cent) and in Belgium and Luxembourg, up by a fifth. The Volkswagen group consolidated its position as Europe's biggest seller, with 390,000 registrations in the two months.

Peugeot-Citroën fell to third place, behind Fiat. □ EC environment ministers meet in Brussels today to consider controversial draft rules from the commission on movement of toxic waste. Commission sources say the rules would allow export of waste from the Community only to other OECD countries capable of processing it under the terms of the Basel convention, which sets out minimum safety requirements.

Greenpeace and eastern European governments, however, say this is a sham: Greenpeace last week accused Brussels of "toxic colo-

nialism". It produced photographs of a mercury reprocessing plant in South Africa run by Thor Chemicals, a British company that receives half of its waste mercury from the EC. Greenpeace has presented the cases of five Zulu workers it claims have severe mercury poisoning; if successful in winning damages for the five, the group says it will take action against Thor in British courts.

Greenpeace figures show that Germany is the world's largest exporter of toxic waste: its 520,000 tons a year compare with 150,000 tons exported by America. Greenpeace maintains that the draft rules will not quell the "not-in-my-back-yard" attitude that leads EC governments to turn a blind eye to illegal waste shipments. Last week, a ship carrying shredded and poisonous car parts from Germany was turned away by Egyptian port authorities after a tip off from The Netherlands, the whereabouts of the ship and its cargo are no longer known.

The commission says the new rules will maintain the ban on exporting waste to African, Caribbean and Pacific states linked to the Community through the Lomé convention, and will tighten up movement within the EC.

The ministers will also examine plans by Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment commissioner, to phase out chloro-fluorocarbons, and a directive establishing uniform levels of sulphur in diesel. The commission wants a two-stage programme to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions and cut acid rain levels. □ Glaxo, the British pharmaceuticals group, will probably learn this week whether the commission is to investigate its pricing, after a complaint from Denmark. Eric Larsen, the Danish health minister, alleges that the cost of two Glaxo drugs, Imigran and Serevent, "threatens the development of an EC health policy". The commission is studying an independent report claiming that drugs companies restrict sales of drugs to wholesalers to prevent undercutting by "parallel imports". The commission's decision on Glaxo could be a pointer to future policy.

TOM WALKER

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		WH Smith 'A'	418p (-150)
HSBC	310p (+10p)	Harland Simon	103p (-28p)
Glaxo	782p (+18p)	M&G	588p (-10p)
Liberty Life	885p (+12p)	ADT	472p (-10p)
Newport Corp	800p (+15p)	Garratt	500p (-10p)
Unilever	924p (+5p)	Garratt	233p (-8p)
FALLS:		Hapworth	388p (-10p)
Barclays Group	252p (-11p)	Inchcape	421p (-10p)
Tarmac	137p (-4p)	Rediff & Colman	650p (-18p)
Yorkshire Chem	529p (-11p)	Siebs	615p (-10p)
Smithline	855p (-22p)		
J Wilkes	132p (-15p)		

Closing Prices..Page 27

RECENT ISSUES

Amicable Smaller Units (500)	462	Kier & More Tm Inc 124p	103
Avonco Group (100)	104	do. 2nd Prt 124p	123
Bodycote Ltd (RFD)	378	Roche (115)	127
Capital Industries 1p	37	Templeton Emerg Mkts (100)	99
Priming Line & Cap 'Ys Inc (20)	47	Unilever (RFD) 11/102	155
do. Unilever (100)	98		
do. Zero Div P/F (20)	32		
First Pore (110)	47		
Headlam Group (RFD)	70		
Laidlaw Amer Inc & Ap (100)	111		
Lloyd Smir Co Pkgs Us (100)	97		
Lloyd Smir Co's Div 1p (20)	37		
Lloyd Smir Co's Cap 1p (10)	50		
Mobilcore Warrants	11		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Addison Consultancy N/P (15)	145		
Beagle 10p N/P (10)	145		
British Vias N/P (121)	145		
Calwell Investments 10p N/P (20)	145		
Hudson 3p N/P (10)	145		
Sainsbury's 10p N/P (10)	145		
Trinity 10p N/P (215)	145		

THE ONLY FUEL WITH A SOLID FUTURE

Frances Gibb looks at women in the judiciary and below, a report on women solicitors

Let more women judge

A woman was recently promoted to the mostly male ranks of High Court judges.

The appointment of Ann Ebsworth, previously a circuit judge and crown court recorder, takes four women judges out of a total of 111 in the High Court and Court of Appeal.

The shortage of women in the senior judiciary is worse than a decade ago when three of 3 High Court judges were women, compared with three of 14 now. No woman has ever been a law lord. There is one woman, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, in the Court of Appeal, three in the High Court and 21 out of 446 circuit judges.

Let the circuit bench has for 15 years been open to the greater pool of women solicitors, although the higher judicial ranks, now to be opened up under government reforms, have been restricted to men.

In time, it is said, more women will filter through to the higher levels. Though women still make up only about a fifth of the Bar's 6,900 members, they form almost half of the new entrants. However, women still do not apply for the lower judicial posts. The Lord Chancellor's department, which has tried unsuccessfully to boost the numbers of women on the circuit bench, points to the poor rate of applications from

women for assistant recorder-ships, the lowest rung on the judicial ladder.

Last week, the Bar announced new research to remedy sex discrimination. Questionnaires will go to barristers to find out whether women are disadvantaged. The survey will cover obtaining pupillage or tenancies, treatment in chambers, whether chambers provide for maternity leave and whether women are forced into special categories of work such as crime and family law. Recommendations will follow. The initiative is being taken by a new permanent committee of the Bar Council, specially created to tackle sex discrimination.

The plight of women came to a head at the Bar with a report last year by Helena Kennedy, QC, who has three young children, that listed obstacles in the path of women barristers, from a denial of weighty work on which to build their practices to a reluctance by chambers to consider more flexible arrangements for working mothers.

As Anthony Scrivenor, QC, put it when he was Bar chairman last year, "Women must have the same opportunity as men to succeed at the Bar on merit. They can expect no favours and need none. But they have the right to be treated on an equal footing with the men, not disadvantaged, because they have children."



Ann Ebsworth, fourth woman judge of 111 in the High Court and Court of Appeal



Leading law women: Barbara Mills, left, soon to be Director of Public Prosecutions; Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, of the Court of Appeal; and Helena Kennedy, a leading QC

Why women's legal talents are going to waste

When law students take their solicitors' finals this summer, half the successful candidates will be women. Ten years after being admitted to the roll, four out of ten will have left the profession, compared with one in ten men. Male partners will outnumber their female counterparts by two to one. Today, 87.1 per cent of partners in solicitors' firms are men.

These figures, from the Law Society's annual statistical report, highlight a huge waste in human resources, coupled with reluctance to allow, or help, women to the top.

The problem was first spotted in a 1988 Law Society report, "Equal in the Law", which noted that although more women were entering the profession, a "significant and alarming number are temporarily retiring from it after a few years", mainly to have children. There are no figures on the numbers of women returning to practice.

The report urged the society to sponsor refresher and returning courses for women. But the recommendation remains unimplemented, although the Association of Women Solicitors (AWS) runs annual residential courses for women returners. The College of Law has also introduced a distance-learning course for returners, based on the Law Society finals course. Professional up-dating courses are also a new development, such as Leicester University's 12-week returner course for women lawyers.

Four years on, what are law firms doing? Last year, Quarry Doggall, recruitment consultants, published a report

which found that firms are starting to introduce piecemeal policies for women with family commitments, but that they did no more than "tweak" the problem.

City firms have introduced enhanced maternity benefits. For the statutory period of maternity leave, 40 weeks, Freshfields pays its female employees full pay for 18 weeks and half pay for the balance of 22 weeks.

Others, such as Denison Hall, prefer to offer a loyalty bonus equivalent to a percentage of leaving salary.

In big City firms the "mummy track" has evolved. None of the firms has part-time fee-

earnings, where qualified lawyers provide research back-up to fee earners. Women who request a more flexible working package are encouraged to move across to this work; invariably they then leave the partnership track.

In smaller firms, there are more women partners working flexible hours. Bindmans, the legal aid practice, was one of the first to have women partners in a job-share.

Masons, a firm specialising in construction law, has flexible arrangements at partnership and assistant solicitor level. One part-time assistant solicitor has been made a (qualified) partner. Masons has also set up MAMA, Mothers at Masons Association, a support group for all staff with family commitments.

Bevan Ashford, one of the biggest regional firms, was the first law firm to set up a day nursery.

Margaret Bennett, the chairwoman of the Equity Partners' Group, a sub-committee of the AWS, wants to find out what policies the major law firms are adopting on maternity/paternity leave, re-training schemes and flexible working hours. Her committee plans to raise £10,000 in sponsorship from a leading law firm to draw up a systematic questionnaire.

As for women's future position, she argues that considering that "women have entered the profession in large numbers only in the past decade, they have made remarkable progress. Law firms may, she acknowledges, need a little help to see the light."

DEBORAH WOLFSON

A regional firm is the first to organise a day nursery

earning partners but Freshfields appointed its first part-time, non-fee-earning partner last year to head its professional support department. Freshfields and Clifford Chance stipulate that a part-time assistant solicitor, a post that includes working fixed hours, is no longer eligible for partnership. People may re-join the partnership track when they return to full-time work, but there are no examples of this happening. Linklaters does not bar part-timers from partnership, but has not yet created a partner working flexible hours. These firms have recently expanded their professional support de-

Fare go for prisoners

AMID the pre-election fever, nobody seems to have noticed that a Labour victory would mean an end to government plans for commercial contractors to transport prisoners from detention to court. The government has announced that in a regional pilot project, 12 firms have been asked to tender for the privilege of driving all but the top-security prisoners to court from the start of next year.

Unfortunately, the government, for "commercial confidentiality", will not name the firms. Perhaps some mini-cab drivers are in for a windfall.

Church aid

THE Congregational & General, a leading insurer of religious properties, is offering churches and other commercial policyholders a 24-hour helpline to protect against

legal and practical problems, including vandalism.

Run by Europ Assistance, the help-line will be free to new and existing policyholders. In an emergency, the policy holder phones the helpline. If, for instance, there is a broken door or leaky roof, Europ Assistance will contact one of a network of independent contractors "on its computerised touch-screen maps" and the repairer will visit the site at once.

Aid tactic

THE Scottish Bar is as worried about legal aid as its English counterparts. Alan Johnston, QC, the Dean of Faculty, has reluctantly accepted the government's proposed 5 per cent increase this year — 2 per cent more than the legal aid increase for lawyers south of the border. The election has

derailed Mr Johnston's campaign for a radical re-think on legal aid levels, but he has not lost sight of the need for rates to be reviewed and for a "major alteration" of the system's structure. He also advocates the introduction of a standard fee for certain cases. He believes the Treasury will push for an identical system of legal aid north and south of the border and will not give more money, hence his focus on savings.

"I think," he says, "that this has more chance of bearing fruit than an approach that simply seeks to increase rates."

SCRIVENOR

● Lord Mishcon, the distinguished solicitor, is not, as stated in Law Times last week, a past chairman of the Bar.

A democracy should not ban information

THE Irish Supreme Court last month lifted an injunction that had prevented a teenage rape victim from travelling to England for an abortion. The court explained that it had made the decision because of the risk that the girl might commit suicide.

Today in Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights is to hear argument in another Irish abortion case. The issue is whether it is a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights for Irish law to prohibit organisations that counsel pregnant women from providing information about the identity and location of abortion clinics outside the Irish Republic.

The decision of the European Court will have an important effect on the scope of freedom of expression throughout Europe.

If a pregnant woman in the republic wished to consider an abortion, arrangements were made by the counselling services to refer her to appropriate medical clinics in Britain. In March 1988, the Irish Supreme Court held that these activities were in breach of the constitution.

Article 10 of the European Convention requires that any interference with freedom of information must be "prescribed by law" and "necessary in a democratic society". In March 1991, the European Commission of Human Rights, the lower judicial body, concluded, by eight votes to five, that the injunction was not "prescribed by law" as the content of Irish law was unclear before the supreme court's judgment.

The European Court is unlikely to follow this conclusion. The commission's reasoning was unconvincing on the foreseeability test, and the decision was unhelpful in failing to give guidance on the legality of a ban on the provision of such information in the future, now that the content of Irish law is known.

In a line of cases, the European Court has affirmed the fundamental importance of freedom of expression. As the court most recently explained in the judgment on *The Sunday Times and Spycatcher* last November, "freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic

society". Exceptions to the right "must be narrowly interpreted and the necessity for any restrictions must be convincingly established".

The court is likely to follow the approach adopted in the separate, and powerfully reasoned, opinion of Sir Basil Hall, the commission's UK member. He explained why the Irish ban was not "necessary in a democratic society".

The applicant organisations were not advocating abortion. They were providing objective information about reliable and lawful services in the UK. Such information would in any event be available to well informed members of Irish society, through books and magazines, so the ban was likely to affect only poorer women.

Sir Basil noted that the evidence before the commission indicated that the injunction had not reduced the numbers of Irish women having abortions in Britain, but had resulted in those women travelling at a later stage in their pregnancy and fewer women were having the required medical checks after returning to the republic. So the judgment of the Irish Supreme Court did not advance any interests of the fetus, but was damaging to the health and welfare of Irish women.

There is no justification for trying to deny citizens access to information that may be vital to the protection of their own health. The right to free movement within Europe is impeded when a state tries to keep secret details of lawful activities in other member states of the Council of Europe. Article 10 states that it applies "regardless of frontiers".

In 1975, the US Supreme Court held that it was a breach of the First Amendment to the US Constitution for Virginia to punish people for providing truthful information within its borders about abortion services available in New York. The European Court should come to the same conclusion about the similar efforts of the Irish republic.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



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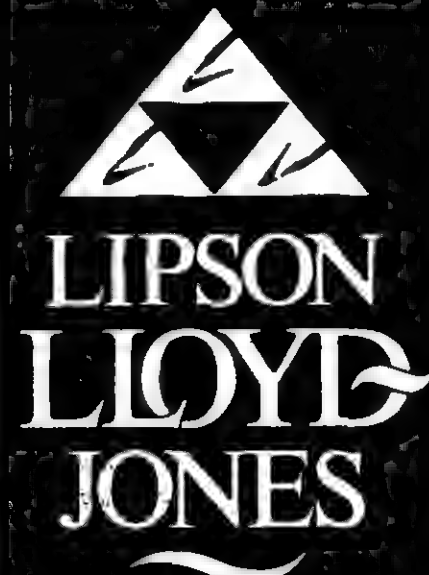
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Law Report March 24 1992 Court of Appeal

Asset-freezing injunction rarely appropriate against banks

Polly Peck International plc v
Nadir and OthersBefore Lord Donaldson of
Lynton, Master of the Rolls,
Lord Justice Stocker and Lord
Justice Scott
(Judgment March 19)

Given the nature of a bank's ordinary course of business, in particular in reducing assets by repaying its depositors, and the need for public confidence for its continued existence, circumstances would have to be unusual for a Mareva, asset-freezing, injunction to be made against it.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the fourth defendant, Central Bank of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, from Mr Justice Millett who had granted a Mareva injunction in respect of the central bank's assets within the jurisdiction limited to a specified amount on the application of the plaintiff, Polly Peck International plc, in support of its claims against, *inter alios*, the central bank, such claims being brought at the direction of its joint administrators.

In discharging the Mareva injunction the court directed that the bank should place a sum representing the plaintiffs' tracing claim in a separate account and should be restrained from dealing with that fund otherwise than in the normal course of business and unless and to the extent that there were no other funds in England available to be used.

The bank was also required to inform the plaintiffs' solicitors in advance of any use proposed to be made of that sum and at the same

time to give details of all foreign currency reserves for the time being held within the jurisdiction.

Mr Philip Haslop, QC and Mr Richard Miller for the bank; Mr Robin Potts, QC, Mr Leslie Kosmin and Miss Sandra Bristol for Polly Peck.

LORD JUSTICE SCOTT said that the first defendant, Mr Asil Nadir, had acquired the controlling interest in Polly Peck in about 1980 and was at all material times since then its chief executive. It was claimed that he controlled and directed the movement of funds of Polly Peck and its subsidiaries.

The fifth defendant, Kibris Endustri Bankasi Ltd (IBK), carried on the business of a bank, was incorporated in Northern Cyprus and was controlled by Mr Nadir.

The Central Bank acted as central bank for Northern Cyprus with the supervisory and regulatory role and powers expected for a central bank of a sovereign state, although one not recognised by the UK.

Under local law every bank within the territory had to be authorised to carry on business by the central bank and to ensure liquidity had to hold at least 20 per cent of its foreign currency reserves with the central bank. IBK had maintained a bank account with the central bank in Northern Cyprus at all material times.

Polly Peck had claimed against Mr Nadir and against IBK in respect of misappropriation of the funds of Polly Peck amounting in total to £378 million and £142

million respectively. The basis of the claim against IBK was that between 1987 and 1990 funds of Polly Peck, totalling £142 million, were transferred to the account of IBK at Midland Bank International in London from where they were transferred or paid out or applied otherwise than for the proper purposes of Polly Peck.

The claim against the bank related to £44,987 million of the £142 million.

Over the period IBK transferred that sum from its account at Midland Bank International to the central bank's account at the Midland in exchange for a corresponding sum in Turkish lira, or in nine instances, in sterling credited to IBK's account with the central bank in Northern Cyprus. It was not clear from the evidence what finally became of those sums.

The administrators contended that that scheme was at best in breach of fiduciary duties owed by Mr Nadir to Polly Peck and at worst a dishonest means of diverting Polly Peck's funds to improper purposes. For the purposes of the application and the appeal that was so.

The administrators contended that the central bank either had actual knowledge that the funds in question derived from Polly Peck and were being improperly diverted, or that the circumstances put the central bank on enquiry that that was so. The central bank had made no enquiry but simply accepted and acted on IBK's instructions for the purchase of the lira and for the crediting of the sums to IBK's account in Northern Cyprus.

Polly Peck's main point was its constructive trust case. At the beginning of March a supplementary tracing case had been put forward: that if equitable tracing rules were applied to the £44 million a much lesser sum still stood to the credit of the central bank.

It was common ground that the central bank did not receive any part of the £44 million as volunteer. It received the money, apart from the tracing transfers, for the purpose of foreign exchange transactions. It was crediting IBK with Turkish lira in Northern Cyprus in exchange for sterling in London.

Receipt of trust money by a bona fide purchaser for value without notice of the breach of trust barred any equitable tracing remedy. Mr Potts accepted that that was so.

It followed that actual or constructive knowledge on the part of the central bank of the trust character of the funds received from IBK and of the impropriety of the transfers was as much a requirement of the tracing claim as of the constructive trust claim.

There was, however, an important difference. Equitable tracing led to a claim of a proprietary character. A fund was identified that in equity was regarded as a fund belonging to the claimant.

The constructive trust claim in the present action was not a claim to any fund in specie. It was a claim to monetary compensation.

The only relevant interdictory protection that could be sought in aid of a money claim was a Mareva injunction.

But if identifiable assets were claimed, the interdictory relief sought would not be a Mareva

injunction so as, before liability was established, to interfere with the normal course of the defendant's business.

To impose a Mareva injunction that would have that effect, in order to protect a cause of action that was no more than speculative, was not simply wrong in principle but positively unfair.

But an interlocutory injunction to preserve the sum subject to the tracing claim pending trial would be appropriate, not on principles applicable to the Mareva jurisdiction, but on the basis prescribed by *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* ([1975] AC 396).

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that the special problem arising in the case of a Mareva injunction being granted against a defendant bank was rooted in the fact that the bank's stock in trade was money borrowed from depositors.

In the case of a trading company there was no difficulty in leaving it free to trade on the footing that, in so far as it sold its stock, it would be required either to preserve the proceeds of sale or to use them to buy other stock to which the injunction would apply.

In the case of a bank, in so far as it was called on to repay its depositors, there would be no proceeds of sale and its assets, although not its net assets, would thereby be reduced. That reduction would, however, be in the ordinary course of its business and it would be contrary to the principles governing Mareva injunctions to seek to prevent it.

There was a further problem

ship's conclusions on that claim applied also to the tracing claim. A Mareva injunction ought not to interfere with the ordinary course of business of the defendant, nor was it intended to give the plaintiff security in advance of judgment. It was merely intended to prevent the defendant from defeating the plaintiff's chances of recovery by dissipating or secreting away assets.

That principle made the grant of a Mareva injunction against a bank carrying on normal business very difficult. A Mareva injunction ought never to prevent a defendant from paying his creditors their due debts. A bank had to repay its depositors in accordance with the terms on which the deposits were held.

Roughly 60 per cent of the central bank's deposits were held in London and were accordingly frozen by the Mareva injunction. The evidence impelled the conclusion that the injunction seriously had interfered with the central bank's normal manner of business.

A trial in such a complex action as the present had to be a long way ahead. To maintain the Mareva injunction meantime would be likely to inflict irreparable harm on the bank.

If the injunction were lifted, his Lordship accepted that it was possible that a judgment obtained by Polly Peck would be worthless.

However, on balance the Mareva injunction should be discharged because (i) Polly Peck's present claim against the central bank was no more than speculative, and (ii) it was wrong in principle to grant a Mareva

injunction so as, before liability was established, to interfere with the normal course of the defendant's business.

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There was a further problem

special to banks lying in the extent to which all banking business was fundamentally dependent on the maintenance of confidence by its customers. Banking business was only viable if withdrawals to a greater or lesser extent were balanced by fresh deposits.

Any order which could produce a situation in which there was a run on the bank would be inimical to the purposes for which the Mareva jurisdiction existed.

In the present case, subject to the fact that under local law other banks were required to maintain certain levels of deposit with the central bank, there was no reason why they should continue to make deposits with the central bank if by doing so they risked becoming competing creditors with the plaintiff in a foreign jurisdiction.

It would furthermore be in the ordinary course of the central bank's business in depositing funds to take account not only of competing interest rates, but also of whether depositing funds in one country rather than another would be more likely to retain the confidence of its depositors. An injunction which inhibited the bank from taking account of such considerations would be contrary to principle.

His Lordship was not to be taken as saying that a Mareva injunction could never be granted against a bank, but the circumstances would have to be unusual.

His Lordship agreed with the orders proposed by Lord Justice Stocker.

Lord Justice Stocker agreed with both judgments. Solicitors: Theodore Goddard; Alsop Wilkinson.

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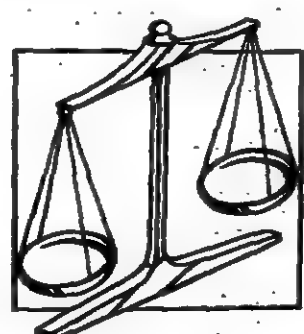
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Edward Fennell reports on the lawyers taking a leading role in sponsoring advice centres to give guidance on business opportunities on the Continent

Tunnel vision of European future

The European Information Centre for Kent, which was formally opened this week, owes most of its backing to Penningtons, the City firm of lawyers, working with the county council, the National Westminster Bank and the accountancy firm KPMG Peat Marwick.

The opening coincides with European Week for Business, which started yesterday but could be lost in the hurry-burry of the election. In a county obsessed by the Channel tunnel, however, much is being made of this initiative. The new centre, part-funded by the European Commission, will plug a gap in the local availability of information and guidance about opportunities in the single market.

Kent, probably more than any other region, has seized the European initiative. In particular, it has

forged close connections with the Nord-Pas de Calais and the local government authority in the south of Belgium. By going into Kent, Penningtons believes it has linked itself with one of the newly emergent "Euro-regions".

Will businesses in Kent have their horizons widened sufficiently to take advantage of their promising geographical position? Chris Dorrner, the county council's assistant director of economic development, admits that Kent is parochial by tradition. In any case, if people feel adventurous, they need only go to London to seek their fortunes. Now that the Channel tunnel and the single market are looming, however, planners are trying to persuade local enterprise that the time has come to look south and east to the 300 million people across the water.

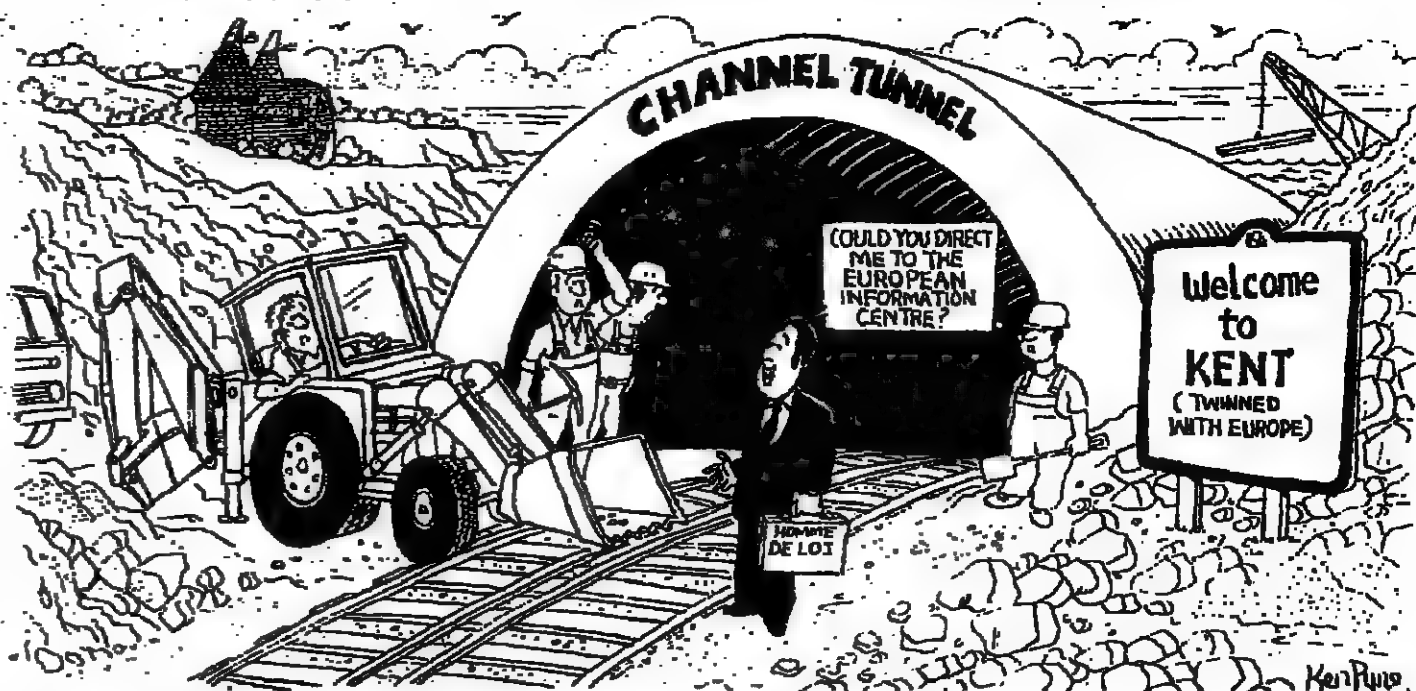
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advice is critical to that development. It will be hard at first to know where to start selling into Europe without talking first to the lawyers. Although Penningtons tends to concentrate on small to medium-sized enterprises it realises that European Community law expertise is essential to its service.

The firm has opened an office in Brussels and is a member of the European Law Group, one of the oldest cross-border associations of lawyers.

The link with Kent's new European Information Centre will see Penningtons supporting seminars and other information sessions and giving basic advice to individual potential clients.

Michael Nathanson, the Penningtons partner behind the scheme, says: "It gives the firm great marketing exposure to the kind of people we want to act for. There



may be some free preliminary information but once we start talking about individual transactions, we will start charging fees."

Turner Kenneth Brown is just nearing the end of its three-year sponsorship of the European Information Centre in Reading, Berkshire, where the firm has an office to serve its local high-tech industry clients. "We decided to back the centre in Reading because it was a worthwhile thing to do in itself and because we were building our links with the EC," says Chris Green, the firm's marketing director. Sponsor-

ship is not being extended because "it has done its job. A lot more people in Reading now know about us because of the centre."

Mr Green admits that the connection has brought in relatively few solid clients. The biggest users of the centre's services are smaller

companies or individuals who may not be able to afford the services of a City firm. But if a business is so small that it needs the help of a centre, will it ever be a suitable client for big London firms? Penningtons now has a chance to find out.

who plead guilty and save the expense of a trial.

The likelihood of a substantial costs order is a factor defence solicitors have to take into account when advising clients whether to plead guilty or not guilty.

This is quite different from the principles that apply when acquitted or unconvicted defendants, such as Lord Spens in the collapsed second Guinness trial, apply for their costs to be paid for by the state. In Lord Spens's case, the application was unsuccessful and his lawyers said they would appeal.

Next time I advise somebody like Jimmy on how he should plead and the possible costs consequences, I would like to know what to say when he asks, "But why should I have to pay costs when the Blue Arrow defendants did not have to pay anything?"

PATRICK STEVENS
The author is a practising solicitor

Secrecy endemic despite charter

Do government proposals to unlock information go far enough?

Mr Renton was unequivocal. "Open government," he said, "is about the voluntary creation by the government of the conditions for an informed democracy." For a nation of people still legally defined as subjects rather than citizens, this attitude is not new. But the government commitment to even limited voluntary disclosure of information and selected rights of access could be firm.

To support the government's record, the minister cited assistance given to the 1990 Access to Health Records Bill (now an Act), also introduced by Mr Kirkwood. Interestingly, the government's "assistance" was not viewed in such a favourable light at the time: it was accused of delaying progress, playing parliamentary games and trying to kill the bill by procedural trickery.

Far from being an isolated incident, opacity of this sort is endemic. The temptation to avoid criticism by distorting or withholding the truth almost invariably outweighs any inclination towards full disclosure.

Recent research by the Campaign for Freedom of Information has revealed how pervasive secrecy is. Confidential information includes the names of British slaughterhouses that lost their licences to export to European Community countries because of poor hygiene, kept secret in case exposure would be "dam-

ageful to their trading position"; details of the transport department's vehicle certification agency test results on cars for pollution and safety; punishments imposed by police disciplinary tribunals; results of fire brigade inspections at British Rail stations; and notices issued by the transport department's marine directorate requiring ferry companies to deal with breaches of safety procedures relating to lifeboats, lifejackets and fire equipment.

Mr Kirkwood's "unnecessary" and "excessive" bill and promised Labour and Liberal Democrat legislation would have given citizens the right to this and other information.

The citizen's charter proposals to publish examination results and health authority and local authority performance targets are useful. But more must be done to give people the means to make fully informed choices on who should govern, to scrutinise policies or to contribute effectively to the democratic process.

HENRY WITCOMB
The author is a practising barrister and campaigner

Why must Jimmy count the cost?

Two cases on the same day showed how unjust the costs system can be

JOHN SMITH's enthusiasm for taxing the rich is unlikely to find much favour in certain parts of the criminal justice system, where the poor can end up paying out more than the affluent.

I refer to the system of costs order. On the same day as the convicted Blue Arrow defendants were sentenced, a young client of mine came before the local magistrates. "Jimmy" was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm. It was a sad story arising out of his recent divorce.

Jimmy had access to his young daughter, who lived in the former family home rented by Jimmy and his former wife. Jimmy had gone to see his daughter, but was refused access by his ex-wife's boyfriend. The boyfriend told Jimmy to get out of his own home. A scuffle ensued and Jimmy used more force than strictly necessary, resulting in his court appearance. The boyfriend's injuries were a few scratches and bruises.

The magistrates listened

sympathetically and imposed a conditional discharge on Jimmy. Not surprisingly, they did not order him to pay the boyfriend compensation. But they did order him to pay £15 towards prosecution costs. Jimmy was relieved to have it all over. I was satisfied with the result and felt justice had been done.

The Blue Arrow defendants were dealt with somewhat differently. They had pleaded not guilty and cost the taxpayer nearly £3 million, unlike Jimmy, who admitted his guilt. They had been convicted of the much more serious offence of conspiracy to defraud. They had received suspended prison sentences, not conditional discharges. Yet they had not been made to pay anything at all towards the cost of prosecution.

The trial judge, Mr Justice

McKinnon, was given a statement of the financial circumstances of the Blue Arrow quartet. I am not privy to the contents of that statement. It could well reveal that the defendants were overburdened with school fees and huge mortgages. But I am willing to bet each defendant had more disposable assets and income than Jimmy, who was living in a council house on unemployment benefit.

The courts have a wide discretion on the question of whether convicted defendants should be made to pay anything towards the costs of the prosecution. It is most unusual for a defendant who is not imprisoned to escape without a costs order against him, particularly when the defendant has pleaded not guilty. The courts have long given a financial discount to those

who plead guilty and save the expense of a trial.

The likelihood of a substantial costs order is a factor defence solicitors have to take into account when advising clients whether to plead guilty or not guilty.

This is quite different from the principles that apply when acquitted or unconvicted defendants, such as Lord Spens in the collapsed second Guinness trial, apply for their costs to be paid for by the state. In Lord Spens's case, the application was unsuccessful and his lawyers said they would appeal.

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PATRICK STEVENS
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Couples carries the burden of expectation



Couples: tipped for Masters

FROM MITCHELL PLATT'S
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN ORLANDO

THE challenge facing Fred Couples now he is the No. 1 player in the world will be to handle the inevitable pressure of being the United States' latest golf hope.

Couples has still to graduate to the status of true champion by winning one of the four major titles. Yet his credentials are so formidable that many will be willing him to reach new peaks each week.

He awoke yesterday, following his astonishing nine-shot win in the Nestlé Invitational tournament here, to find coast-to-coast coverage claiming that he was the dominant player for whom the US PGA Tour had long been searching.

That cannot be disputed. Couples has won five of the 22 tournaments he has played since the US Open last June. That includes the Johnnie Walker world championship. This season, he is 115 under

par for eight tournaments; and in his last four, he has won twice and finished runner-up twice.

Couples, however, is embarrassed. "I'm not comfortable with the No. 1 ranking," he said. "I need to have done more than I have to be there. I'm a mile from being a dominant player. There are 30 players who are just as good as me. It's simply my time, my month."

Even so, Couples has the image as well as the talent to restore American pride in a game that has been dominated by Europeans in recent years. He is the boy next door whom every father would want as his son-in-law; and his placid demeanour has given rise to the quip that at some time he must have undergone an ego bypass.

His swing is a thing of beauty, slow and smooth, and he has a full repertoire of shots. He might be nicknamed "Boom-Boom" but there is more to his game than a 300-yard drive. He has learned to move the ball both ways; his irons

are struck with classic authority, and he puts with complete confidence. Jack Nicklaus said: "He's one of the most talented players I've ever seen."

The transformation of Couples, aged 32, began at The Belfry in 1989 when he lost to Christy O'Connor Jr in the Ryder Cup. There, at the 18th, O'Connor hit the green with a two-iron and Couples missed an elementary approach with a nine-iron. Tony Jacklin, standing next to O'Connor, had predicted that Couples would fold under the pressure.

"I think losing that day motivated me," Couples said. "I really felt bad about it. It hit me hard because I had let my team-mates down but I guess it toughened me up."

Even so, the real examination begins now because Couples is regarded as the American most likely to win the Masters, which starts in little more than two weeks' time. If he wins at Augusta, then it is highly likely that Couples can become the most

COUPLES'S RISE TO THE TOP

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: (US unless stated); 1. F Couples, 16.14pts average; 2. N Faldo (GB), 15.58; 3. J M O'Connell (GB), 15.75; 4. I Woosnam (GB), 15.77; 5. S Ballesteros (Sp), 15.16; 6. B Langer (Ger), 13.71; 7. equal G Norman (Aus), 11.59, and P Stewart (GB), 11.59; 8. P Azinger, 10.15; 10. M McNulty (Zim), 9.48; 11. Rodger Davis (Aus), 8.83; 12. I Baker-Finch (Aus), 8.84; 13. M O'Meara 8.53; 14. C Parry (Aus), 8.15; 15. H Irwin, 8.06; 16. R Saffery (Ire), 7.51; 17. D Love, 7.28; 18. C Pavin, 7.28; 19. R Floyd, 7.03; 20. J Cook, 5.86.

Couples's 1992 record

Tournament of Champions: Tied 3rd; 72, 70, 68, 70 = 280 (45); \$41,500; Bob Hope Classic: Tied 8th; 68, 67, 69, 64, 69 = 337 (23); \$36,225; Northern Telecom Open: Tied 16th; 74, 67, 68, 68 = 277 (11); \$15,437; Buick Invitational: Tied 25th; 67, 68, 71 = 207 (5); \$7,155; Los Angeles Open: 1st; 69, 67, 64, 70 = 269 (15); \$180,000; Doris Ryder Open: Tied 2nd; 66, 69, 69, 69 = 273 (15); \$123,200; Honda Classic: Second; 68, 68, 65, 71 = 273 (15); \$18,800; Waste Invitational: 1st; 67, 69, 63, 70 = 269 (18).

commanding American player since Tom Watson. But he says: "I don't think we will ever see the likes of Jack Nicklaus or Arnold Palmer again. Those guys were hand-picked. I don't see a guy out there now who can win two majors in one year let alone four."

"As far as being a superstar, then maybe right now I am. I don't like to look my horn but I do think I am a good player. I shall certainly try my best to keep playing this way and, yes, the way

I am hitting the ball I am looking forward to Augusta. But I've always had a tendency to get ahead of myself and I believe I've played well this last year by taking it shot by shot. So I'm not thinking any further ahead than my opening drive in The Players' Championship, which starts on Thursday."

What is certain is that Couples has left behind the days when he was so forgetful that he arrived for one tournament not realising he had not entered. More impor-

tant, he is making full use of a raw talent that encouraged him to turn professional in 1980 when he arrived at a tournament in California only to find there were no places for amateurs. He went to the US tour qualifying school later that year, finished the leading rookie in 1981 and was hailed as a having a big future on winning The Players' Championship in 1984.

Since then, Curtis Strange and Payne Stewart have emerged as the players most likely to lead American golf into a new era, but with the Masters on the horizon there can be no question Couples is holding the baton. Just how far he can run with it remains to be seen.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 289: F Couples, 67, 68, 70, 72 = 278; G Sauer, 70, 70, 65, 73 = 288; D Wadsworth, 74, 69, 70, 68, 70 = 290; M Brooks, 68, 75, 69, 69, 71 = 293; D Burt, 72, 67, 70, 70, 72 = 293; T Kite, 76, 69, 67, 70, 73 = 295; D Love, 74, 70, 67, 71, 72 = 294; M Hayward (Aus), 69, 70, 71, 73 = 283; G Hurlbut, 73, 74, 69, 75, 71, 67, 71 = 293; D A Wadsworth, 75, 71, 69, 70, 71, 70 = 293; S Sorensen, 74, 71, 72, 68, 70, 72, 69, 72, 72 = 293; McCaskey, 68, 74, 71, 71.

TENNIS

Chang lacks power to deliver the goods like Courier

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN KEY BISCAYNE

THIS time last year, Jim Courier had just completed successive tournament wins in Indian Wells and Key Biscayne. With that springboard of confidence, Courier leapt into the top ten, won his first grand slam title at the French Open two months later, and finally ascended to No. 1 earlier this year.

Whether Michael Chang, who beat Alberto Mancini 7-5, 7-5 to win his first Lipton title, after his victory in Indian Wells, can progress with the same speed is doubtful.

It is hard to remember that the young American is still just one month beyond his twentieth birthday, and at Lipton, has added yet another line to his "youngest ever" list. Somehow, with his fresh, wise face and serious manner, Chang seems ageless. But wit, speed and an extraordinary strength of will — qualities presumably appreciated by Robin Hood's alias, Kevin Costner, who was the most notable VIP in the crowd of 12,000 for the final — might not be enough to combat the bigger men when they are firing on all cylinders.

Chang springs to prominence by becoming at just 17 years and three months, the youngest men's singles grand slam champion. The weight of the record books, though, proved too heavy and for the last two years Chang has been relegated to the bottom of the pack of American pretenders as he struggled to develop a game to cope with the big hitters. He hired Phil Dent,

and Australian, to improve his serve and volleying, has changed agents regularly, and now works with his brother, Carl, whose sole experience of tennis was playing for the University of California.

It has taken him several years to come to terms with winning a grand slam title so early in his career and the fact that he has returned to the limelight in the company of now Lipton women's singles champion, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, an equally unexpected French Open champion in 1989, is a neat twist of fate not lost on Chang.

"Since that day we have often looked at each other and smiled," he said. "We were both the underdogs, both had the same sponsors and, though it has faded a little with time, when we look at each other, we know exactly



Chang up to No. 6

ly what the other is thinking. Chang's rich streak of form has coincided with others' struggles. Courier has admitted his head has been turned to things other than tennis by being No. 1 and his successor, Stefan Edberg, is playing as badly as he can remember.

That the Swede goes back to No. 1 after he suffered the worse loss of his career in the third round, while Courier at least reached the semi-final, is an embarrassment that should prompt the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) to look closely at their rankings system. Why not start each year with a new set of rankings rather than making players defend points from the previous year? After his third title of the year, Chang has risen back to No. 6 in the world, having dropped to 28 at one point last year, and he is a contender for his second French title, in Paris in two months.

Off court, the talk was still of the increasing speed of the game. The ATP forum on the subject brought up a number of important issues for the future, not least the impact of new powerful rackets on growing bodies. Dr Ben Kibler, president of the society for tennis medicine, warned of the increase of arm and upper body injuries in juniors. "If so many juniors are getting injured, who are going to be your professionals of the future?" he asked delegates. Now that is a question the International Tennis Federation should address.

BASKETBALL

Greece should provide test

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

GREAT Britain are to play two matches against Greece in preparation for their Olympic Games qualifying programme in June.

In terms of opposition, the Greeks will provide a stern test. They were European champions in 1987, when they beat the Soviet Union 103-101 in the final, and runners-up two years later.

In terms of match conditions, it will give Britain a taste of what to expect should they reach the Olympic finals

in Spain, where the sport is viewed with a passion rarely seen on these shores.

Britain will play Greece in London on May 23 and 24, at a venue to be announced, yet where the Greek community will undoubtedly flock to.

Like the Spanish, they love their basketball. Living in exile increases the hunger and the home players may feel they have surfaced in little Athens when they run out.

Prior to the double-bill, the squad will spend a week at

Lliffshall and also take on the touring University of Nebraska side. After Greece, a four-team tournament in Germany, a possible fixture with Israel and a warm-up against Portugal complete the pre-Olympic agenda.

The serious business starts against Estonia on June 22, followed by Lithuania, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Hungary and the Netherlands.

Results and table, page 37

Making the mileage count

BY ALEX RAMSEY

WILLIAM Black knows what it is like to be far from home. He first came to London from Cape Town to work as an accountant on a three-month contract. That was two years and he has not been home since.

So when Black's friend, Trevor Andary, was injured in a hiking accident last October, leaving him in a wheelchair, Black decided to run in the ADT London Marathon to raise money to send Andary home to his family in Kentucky.

"All the sponsorship is new to me," Black said. "I ran the marathon last year without raising any money and I knew this year I wanted to do something for charity. When I first became aware of Trevor's situation, my first instinct was to raise money for a fight to send him home but I am trying to raise as much as I can because there will be special things he needs when he comes out of hospital."



Before the accident, Andary, aged 23, had been working as a teacher in Lexington. At first he wanted to go home as soon as he left Stoke Mandeville hospital but now he plans to stay until August to see out his contract, provided the local council is successful in its search for suitable accommodation for him.

The two men met at All Souls' church in Regent Street and Black hopes the 2,000-strong congregation will provide a starting point in his search for sponsors. Already one of the members has opened a trust fund for Andary, while his colleagues in the choir are also doing their bit for the cause.

At the age of 27, Black is an experienced marathon man. He has completed many half-marathons and seven marathons, mostly in South Africa. His best time is 2hr 39min, which he recorded on his first attempt. "I've never really tried to beat that," he said. "This time Black has set himself a target of three-and-a-half hours. 'If I go over that I will be disappointed,'" he said.



Charity away from home: Black in training

"But really I am not interested in the time. The emphasis is on raising money for Trevor."

□ The Times and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by featuring the efforts of our team of fund runners we will help them to find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to The

Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Please make cheques payable to the appropriate fund-runner and we will send you our donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser and a jersey and a mug of champagne, respectively, to the second and third.

MOTOR RACING

McLaren gathers resources for attempted surge

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN MEXICO CITY

THIS is going to be a great season for Formula One. The gauntlet that Williams has thrown McLaren has turned the world championship into a competition that should see a new through the next races and provide supporters with great excitement.

Two races gone, and two first and second places for Nigel Mansell and Riccardo Patrese. To top this onslaught, McLaren is prepared to take six cars to Brazil in a fortnight. That means that beside the regular pit crew, it will have to send the test-team mechanics, those who have worked on the MP4/7, the "fly-by-wire" car, over the last few weeks in Silverstone. The logistics are daunting, but winning is all to Ron Dennis, and his McLaren team is one of the few with the money to buy success.

Gerhard Berger will again be at the Northamptonshire race track this week, putting the new car through its paces. Ayrton Senna will, of course, go home to Brazil to rest and recuperate from the accident he had on Friday here in qualifying. Mansell never tires of warning that McLaren will not take these defeats "sitting down". His words reflect the belief that McLaren will not be panicked into making mistakes. Teams on this level have huge resources, both in human and technical terms.

But there was a feeling in Mexico, before and after the race, that McLaren was rattled by the strength in depth of Williams. It did not help McLaren that Benetton, fielding a car that was both overweight and underpowered, managed to qualify both of its drivers in front of Senna and Berger. This feat, and the number of accidents that McLaren suffered over the weekend, has prompted

some in the team — and at Honda, too — to say that the absence of qualifying tyres had led to Senna's accident.

Dennis called for a return to soft tyres, or those used only once to set a fast lap. "It's too dangerous to have all these cars lapping over and over again on race tyres. Soon we will have a bad accident," Mansell and Patrese have also been lobbying for a return to soft tyres. This has angered the smaller teams. Flavio Briatore, of Benetton, said: "We don't have special qualifying engines, or even fuel. This narrows the gap, that's good for us." Peter Collins, of Lotus, added: "This way we have more of a chance to qualify high on the grid. This way McLaren and Williams have less of an advantage."

Both spoke before the meeting yesterday when it was decided not to go back to qualifying tyres. Both teams' results vindicated their managers' position. For once, the small teams won the day, something that must be good for the sport.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Drivers: 1. Mansell, 2nd: 2. Patrese, 3rd: 3. Senna, 4th: 4. Berger, 5th: 5. A. Senna, 6th: 6. de Cesaris, 7th: 7. Herbert, 8th: 8. Constanter, 9th: 9. Williams, 10th: 10. McLaren, 11th: 11. Benetton, 12th: 12. Williams, 13th: 13. Williams, 14th: 14. Williams, 15th: 15. Williams, 16th: 16. Williams, 17th: 17. Williams, 18th: 18. Williams, 19th: 19. Williams, 20th: 20. Williams.

TABLE TENNIS

Chen can claim medal

CHEN Xinhua has been selected for a European championship for the first time with his inclusion yesterday in the seven-strong England squad for next month's event in Stuttgart (Richard Eaton writes). If the China-born Briton, who made his England debut two years ago, can find his best over a long and

tiring championship, he could be a contender for a medal in men's singles.

He will certainly have an excellent chance of a medal in the team event with England's three other men — Carl Prean, the No. 1, Alan Cooke, the former Commonwealth champion, and Matthew Syed.

ICE HOCKEY

Britain team takes significant step

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

FOLLOWING the excitement of Great Britain's promotion on Sunday, yesterday was a rest day in pool C of the world championships in Hull.

The British players had a light-hearted workout, although tonight's game against Hungary is not being taken lightly, even though the 16-2 win over North Korea on Sunday assured the team of promotion.

Frederick Meredith, the president of the British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA), described Great Britain's success as: "The most significant result in British ice hockey for at least 30 years. We are back in the world's top 20 and, with the talent we have, we will surely hold our own."

The BIHA used the rest day

to announce a new sponsorship for the Autumn Cup, which will now be known as the Benson and Hedges Cup. An annual £70,000 inflation-linked sponsorship fund will be made available, with the winners in 1992 receiving £2,000.

There will be a new format next season which will enable all premier division and first division teams to take part and both the preliminary and closing stages will be on a knockout basis.

The preliminary matches will start the last weekend of August and the final, at a venue yet to be decided, will be on December 5.

Britain gained their victory over North Korea in the most emphatic manner. Tony Hand opened the scoring

after only four minutes, and added a second in the eleven-minute.

Great Britain had four goals on the board by the end of the first period, and, in spite of the Koreans switching goalkeepers three times during the second period, eight more goals were added.

The game was physical and the Koreans did not endear themselves to the large crowd by repeatedly feigning injury. The Danish referee handed out a total of 61 minutes in penalties, and seemed to miss several infractions, which one left were more serious than some of those which were punished.

But all this was forgotten in the excitement of victory and the prospect of entering pool B next year.

SQUASH RACKETS

Devoy back in old routine

SUSAN Devoy's third successive victory in the Guernsey women's open championship on Sunday bodes well for her declared ambition of reclaiming the British open title at Wembley next month (Colin McQuillan writes).

The world champion defeated Martine Le Moignan, the England No. 1, 9-5, 9-1, 9-4 in 39 minutes at St Peter Port. In Madrid earlier this month and in Cardiff in February, Le Moignan was also Devoy's final victim. Before Christmas in Amsterdam the New Zealand, aged 28, defeated Sue Wright, the British national champion, to whom she lost in last year's British open quarter-finals.

RESULT: Final: S Devoy (NZ) bt M Le Moignan (Eng), 9-5, 9-1, 9-4.

United seek revenge for New Year defeat

MANCHESTER United will be eager to avenge their heavy New Year's day defeat against Queen's Park Rangers in the return fixture at Loftus Road.

It is difficult, however, to see faltering United managing more than a draw against a team in fine form. Rangers' recent conclusive victory over Leeds United, the League leaders, particularly springs to mind.

Portsmouth's FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool at Highbury on Sunday week may prove a distraction to their second division encounter with Swindon Town at Fratton Park.

Portsmouth's rapid climb up the table was halted by Oxford United on Saturday and this, coupled with Swin-

don's resurgence, makes a draw a fair proposition.

Blackburn Rovers head the second division but they are not playing like leaders and may be prepared to improve on a draw at Barnsley, who are undefeated in eight games.

The Lancashire derby between Preston North End and Bolton Wanderers in the third division is the most appealing re-match selection in the lower divisions.

Barnet, the fourth division promotion challengers, are the only team in the League not to have drawn at home but a three-pointer is predicted for the visit of Rochdale.

In Scotland, Motherwell, who have drawn six at home, face Falkirk, who have drawn eight away. Do not bet against another stalemate.

SUNDAY MARCH 29

FOOTBALL

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FOOTBALL

Tug Of Gold fancied to follow up

A RARE programme composed entirely of steeplechases is the treat in store at Sandown Park today.

Top weight in the VSEI Alabrooke Memorial Handicap Chase will be carried by Mr Frisk who will always be remembered for landing the Whitbread Gold Cup on today's track two years ago just three weeks after winning the Grand National.

This is Mr Frisk's last season in training and I know that his trainer, Kim Bailey, would dearly love to call it a day in the afternoon of just one more victory. Time will tell whether today is that occasion.

With the weights going up 5lb overnight, Mr Frisk will need to be at his very best to concede 20lb to the in-form Tug Of Gold. Basically, that best has not been apparent so

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

far this season now that he has reached the age of 13. In contrast, Tug Of Gold enters the fray fresh from winning the Fulke Walwyn, Kim Muir Challenge Cup at Cheltenham where, ironically, he was ridden by Mr Frisk's regular jockey, Marcus Armitage.

Richard Dunwoody takes over again on Tug Of Gold this afternoon and no one deserves to win on this horse more than he does. The combination appeared to have a good chance of collecting at Ludlow last month until encountering a loose horse coming at them from the opposite direction on the run-in. Forced into taking evasive

action, Tug Of Gold lost his momentum and was beaten three-quarters of a length by Romans Birthday.

Dunwoody will also be hopeful of winning the Royal Ordnance Handicap Chase for David Nicholson on Al Hashimi, who ran well when runner-up to Elfast over today's course and distance in February before producing a rather tame effort in the Grand Annual Challenge Cup at Cheltenham.

On this occasion, though, I prefer Le Chat Noir who got his act together at Lingfield ten days ago after two sound placed efforts at Folkestone. The Right O' The Line Handicap Chase can go to Clara Mountain, a long-time favourite with those who race regularly at Sandown, while Richard Holder's versatile eight-year-old, Star Season,

is napped to win the British Aerospace Rapier Novices' Chase after taking similar events at Newton Abbot and Hereford.

Following that promising effort behind Plastic Space-age at Wolverhampton eight



Dunwoody reunited with Tug Of Gold (3.50)

days ago, Rickville now looks capable of giving Jon Trice Roph a second successive victory in the Royal Artillery Gold Cup, having won it 12 months ago with Roscoe Harvey.

The RMC Group Ubique Hunter Chase can go to Wellington Brown, who has carried all before him so far this spring at Larkhill, Kempton and Wincanton.

Leicester off

Today's Flat meeting at Leicester was abandoned for the second year running yesterday because of waterlogging. The stewards decided that false patches of ground, the result of a weekend of heavy rain, could be dangerous if the meeting were allowed to go ahead.

Doumen backs Pitman tactics

FRANCOIS Doumen, trainer of Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up The Fellow, yesterday spoke out in support of Jeremy Pitman in the row over the tactics of Golden Freeze in the Gold Cup.

Doumen says he saw nothing untoward in the running of Golden Freeze, and is surprised the Jockey Club has ordered an enquiry.

"There was no interference caused," Doumen said. "Golden Freeze didn't bump anything. He was just running in front. I have a few horses that run from the front and nobody says to me that they will leave them alone."

"The only thing I know is that if a horse is a champion, he can be a champion from the front or with a horse next to him."

The Fellow, who went down by a short head for the second year in succession, runs on Sunday at Auteuil as part of his build-up for the Grand Steeplechase de Paris in June, a race he won last year.

The Fellow has been thriving since his defeat by Cool Ground and Doumen reports: "He is set to carry a lot of weight but he is so well that I want to run him. The only thing that will stop him is the ground. It's started to rain but I am hoping it won't last."

Norton's Coin has to drop out

NORTON'S Coin, billed as one of the star attractions of a charity race at Worcester tomorrow, will miss the two-mile flat event.

The 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner was entered in the William Hill Heaven Help Us Stakes, in which a team of celebrities, all aged over 45, are to ride.

Former champion riders Bob Davies, Josh Gifford, Stan Meiler and Ron Barry have all agreed to take part to raise money for the Injured Jockeys Fund.

Norton's Coin, who was pulled up in this year's Gold Cup, has still to completely recover from the problems that have dogged his campaign.

Folkstone

Gallop soft (mod); heavy (wt) 1.45 (1m 1140yds) 1. MAJED (Pai Eddery, 11-10) 2. Great Imposter (J. Reid, 30-1) 3. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 4. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 5. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 6. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 7. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 8. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 9. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 10. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 11. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 12. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 13. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 14. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 15. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 16. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 17. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 18. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 19. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 20. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 21. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 22. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 23. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 24. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 25. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 26. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 27. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 28. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 29. The Fellow (J. Pitman, 30-1) 30. 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Tension and travesty in a World Cup cauldron



Wessels: took a risk

That, surely, was an awful moment for cricket when the second semi-final of the World Cup ended as it did in Sydney on Sunday. In more than 40 years of writing about the game, I think I have never before felt such despair.

But before we proceed on that tack, it might be as well to stress the very highly charged and competitive atmosphere in which international cricket is now played. Perhaps most of all, this applies to the World Cup, basically because of the nature of the matches.

In Test cricket, when feelings can run just as high, there is time to cool off. The Sydney Cricket Ground between 2.30 in the afternoon and 10.30 at night — the hours of a one-day interna-

tional — becomes a veritable cauldron.

None of us can say how, amid such tension, we would have reacted had we been in Graham Gooch's shoes, when England were given the chance to run for cover with South Africa needing 22 runs to win from the 13 balls remaining.

Most of us never have been and never will be subjected to remotely comparable pressures. It is one thing to say that we would somehow have insisted on justice being done but, with so much at stake, there can be no certainty that we would.

To take the option of leaving the field in heavy rain was no more than many captains would have done — Kepler Wessels, on his own admission, among them.

JOHN WOODCOCK IN MELBOURNE

Had Gooch stayed on and given South Africa their chance, I doubt whether he would be regretting it.

Win or lose — and the odds were still quite heavily in England's favour — he would have been hailed for his sportsmanship. But he was being urged to go off by more than one of his senior players and the time had come, anyway, when the fielding side was getting much the worse of it.

There would have been no way of knowing if there was a passing shower, as there might have been in daytime. Above and beyond the Sydney lights, the night sky is a dome of unrelieved

blackness, however broken the clouds may be.

So when, very soon, the rain stopped, it was natural to think that providence, after all, was to be even-handed. Wonderful, one thought, the side that deserves to reach a World Cup final is going to be seen in the end to do so.

What followed was nothing less than a travesty. Are we really to believe that there was nobody on the ground with the authority and accuracy to convey to those involved how important it was to seek a happier solution than the one delivered by the palpably unfair rule regarding the revision of a target after rain? In

other words, was the World Cup of 1992 to be remembered as much for that as for the good things to have come out of it?

Players are constantly being reminded of their responsibility as entertainers and, now, in 40 countries around the world, television viewers, many millions of them, were being held enthralled by the match.

When they were deprived of the climax that the previous seven-and-a-half hours had been devoted to providing, very few, if any, would have turned off their sets, at whatever time of day or night it was for them, without a sense of outrage. Before one of the largest audiences it will ever have had, the game was made to look utterly foolish.

In the end, the South Africans, except for their dreadful over-rate, came out of it all with credit, but not of the kind they wanted. They were seen to say and do nothing they might have regretted afterwards.

"We knew the rule," Wessels said, "and we were taking a chance when we chose to field first."

Gooch, splendid sportsman that he is, was outwardly embarrassed when England were presented with the match and, on reflection, perhaps inwardly so.

Messrs Aldridge and Randall, the umpires, showed no evident imagination or, for that matter, urgency when, very soon, the rain began to ease. But it is

the organising committee — and it was there in force — that had most to answer for.

The nonsense, for that is what it was, was of its making, though you would hardly have thought so from what Graham Hallish, general manager of the Australian Cricket Board, speaking on behalf of the World Cup committee, said: "I don't believe the match was a farce. Like the semi-final in Auckland, it was a magnificent game of cricket."

"It was just unfortunate that rain intervened. It was not the fault of the umpires, the World Cup committee or anyone else — it was an act of God." He could be saying next, in view of South Africa's frustration, that it was the Almighty's way of casting a "no" vote.

World waits on seven-hour penalty shoot-out

Real cricket takes a back seat as final approaches

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MELBOURNE

THE World Cup is compulsive viewing, a penalty shoot-out expanded from ten minutes to seven hours. It is like waiting for the solicitor to ring to say the buyer has exchanged contracts on your house, when you have already signed for the next, more expensive, one.

England, the favourites, go into the World Cup final tomorrow wondering if they will be amazed by the flash lot without a bank account, Pakistan; no doubt with Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, waiting in the wings to blow raspberries.

The joy of real cricket (on which I was weaned, fielding as a ten-year-old at the nets for Hassett and Miller) is that, as in a tale of Maugham or Jane Austen, virtue and the conclusion of that unresolved, occasional intellectual masterpiece, the draw, can be left hanging in the mind of the reader/viewer.

In World Cup cricket, like the plot of *EastEnders*, you jump from an abortion to inheriting uncle's unknown legacy, to a walk-out on the registry office steps, all in the space of 25 minutes.

There is time as a spectator at real cricket to meet a friend, post a letter, telephone the office with an excuse, even to fall in love, and still not lose the thread. There is no time out here for a yawn. Go and buy a cup of coffee and you may miss the vital statistics of half Botham's career. It is, of

course, the World Cup that sustains his career.

The limited overs game is to the art of Geoff Boycott what the jacuzzi is to the marathon. When the mad mandarins of administration take over, as they did in the semi-final between England and South Africa on Sunday, with algebraic calculation of the rainfall, the game makes less sense than *A Night at the Opera*.

The talk here is less what will happen at the historic Melbourne Cricket Ground tomorrow than what an absurdity was the Sydney semi-final. I do not get the impression that Australians are gleefully awaiting the fall of Gooch and Botham. For a start, the Aussie is essentially a good sportsman — especially when not in contention — and besides which, as Keating has implied, half the population is now Greek, Yugoslav or Oriental; they think if you do not speak English with an Australian accent, you must be American.

I asked my taxi driver from the airport here if he was from Belgrade. "I am *Crik*," he said indignantly. "From historic country." To him, cricket meant as much as Super Bowl. The Greek who drove me to Sydney airport was so busy telling me, at 20mph, about the girl he met and married in Birmingham, and why he therefore supported Gooch and Co, that I nearly missed the plane.

If you want to know what

World Cup cricket is doing to the game, just wait for the Japanese. They have overtaken the American motor trade, and they have hired Gary Lineker. Cricket may come next. A tour party of 150 Japanese students checked in ahead of me at Sydney. They learned the game at overseas universities, imported it, and now were attending at Mecca. The problem for the Japanese, I would have supposed, is that having an low appeal rejected must be a cultural impasse. Loss of face.

Fortunately, the weather forecast means that the mandarin mathematicians should not be needed. Tomorrow is expected to be fine in the high twenties, moving towards 30C on Thursday: perhaps just the conditions to lift the quixotic Imran and his volatile crew. Will the flamboyant Inzamam, a 22-year-old without a Test match behind him, be man of the match?

The one-day game unquestionably perverts convention. Batsmen no longer play strokes; late cutting or pulling, they "work the ball". Runs are snatched when the ball drops dead off the pad like something out of *It's A Knockout*.

But the fascination is that every ball and every stroke is perceived as being five times as important as in real cricket, the importance ascending as one moves towards the last few overs of each innings. It can be fraying stuff, on or off the pitch.



One-day wonder: Botham, whose career has benefited from the World Cup

Stephenson helps England to make the breakthrough

FROM RICHARD STREETON, IN ARNOS VALE, ST VINCENT

JOHN Stephenson's amiable medium pace brought him four for 22, three of his successes coming from return catches, as West Indies finished with a first-innings lead of 61 yesterday in the second A team Test match here. The last four West Indian wickets had been 115 aggressive runs before they were all out for 302 and an early tea was taken.

Stephenson, bowling for the first time in the innings, once again on this tour obtained the breakthroughs England wanted. He had Murray leg-before in his third over and then held a fiercely driven return catch from Perry in his next.

Murray had stayed a further hour and had outscored Holder during a fifth-wicket stand worth 77 in 29 overs. Stephenson was not used until the 63rd over, the pitch seemingly having nothing to offer him. As always, though, he seemed to trouble the West Indians. Murray was pitching forward when he was leg before.

After lunch the pattern changed dramatically as Munton and Cork shared a new ball. The next six overs cost 35, with Cork conceding 23 of them. Holder, hitherto firmly in his shell, pulled and drove freely as the Derbyshire man tried to extract pace from a lifeless pitch.

Munton finally ended a stand which had added 62 in 20 overs for the seventh wick-

et. Munton brought one back as Gray pushed forward and the ball also kept low.

Cork was replaced by Croft after his three poor overs and Holder hit the off spinner's first ball like a bullet straight back at him along the ground for four. The next ball, though, Holder was beaten through the air, and Rhodes brought off the best of several leg-side stumpings he has made on this tour.

In all Holder batted nearly 3 3/4 hours, hit eight fours and faced 155 balls.

Any hope England held that the end was in sight was soon dispersed as Joseph and Benjamin hit aggressively.

England: First innings
 H. Morris c Best b Gray 40
 D. J. Gower c Munton b Gray 41
 M. R. Ramprakash c Gray b Perry 41
 P. H. Thompson c Holder b Stephenson 41
 J. P. Stephenson c Lambert b Perry 9
 R. J. Rhodes c Lambert b Perry 9
 D. B. Cook c Lambert b Perry 7
 D. B. Cook c Lambert b Perry 7
 D. B. Cook c Lambert b Perry 7
 Extras (b 1, lb 6, nb 14) 21
 Total 302

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 5-9, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14, 13-14, 14-14, 15-14, 16-14, 17-14, 18-14, 19-14, 20-14, 21-14, 22-14, 23-14, 24-14, 25-14, 26-14, 27-14, 28-14, 29-14, 30-14, 31-14, 32-14, 33-14, 34-14, 35-14, 36-14, 37-14, 38-14, 39-14, 40-14, 41-14, 42-14, 43-14, 44-14, 45-14, 46-14, 47-14, 48-14, 49-14, 50-14, 51-14, 52-14, 53-14, 54-14, 55-14, 56-14, 57-14, 58-14, 59-14, 60-14, 61-14, 62-14, 63-14, 64-14, 65-14, 66-14, 67-14, 68-14, 69-14, 70-14, 71-14, 72-14, 73-14, 74-14, 75-14, 76-14, 77-14, 78-14, 79-14, 80-14, 81-14, 82-14, 83-14, 84-14, 85-14, 86-14, 87-14, 88-14, 89-14, 90-14, 91-14, 92-14, 93-14, 94-14, 95-14, 96-14, 97-14, 98-14, 99-14, 100-14, 101-14, 102-14, 103-14, 104-14, 105-14, 106-14, 107-14, 108-14, 109-14, 110-14, 111-14, 112-14, 113-14, 114-14, 115-14, 116-14, 117-14, 118-14, 119-14, 120-14, 121-14, 122-14, 123-14, 124-14, 125-14, 126-14, 127-14, 128-14, 129-14, 130-14, 131-14, 132-14, 133-14, 134-14, 135-14, 136-14, 137-14, 138-14, 139-14, 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1013-14, 1014-14, 1015-14, 1016-14, 1017-

Pakistan team running on adrenalin present Gooch's team with a tall order for World Cup final

England prepare for the unpredictable

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

IN A World Cup where the dread instincts of every country have been dominated by the weather, it is appropriate that England's opponents in the final here tomorrow are Pakistan, who would have been heading home long ago but for a timely downpour the last time the teams met.

Pakistan's woeful start to the tournament culminated in being bowled out by England for 74 in Adelaide almost a month ago. When rain spared them certain defeat, they received the single point by which they squeezed Australia out of a semi-final place last week.

There is nothing woolly about Pakistan's cricket now. The length of the competition has allowed them time to revert from bungling ineptitude to the unpredictable brilliance which makes them such difficult opponents. They have won four consecutive games, two against the previously unbeaten New Zealand, to reach their first final more convincingly than England have reached their third.

Having thrillingly chased 263 to win their semi-final, Imran Khan's team will be high on adrenalin and self-belief. Such qualities should not be absent from the England dressing-room but there can be no accounting for the subconscious deflation of being handed their place in the final by a nonsensical rule rather than by winning it authentically.

Only the myopic could attach any blame to England for the way in which the World Cup, and cricket itself, was demeaned by the fiasco on Sunday. But now that the nightmare has been enacted, the palpably bad rule wrecking a semi-final, the private fear among administrators is



ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (capt), I T Botham, A J Stewart, G A Hick, N H Fairbrother, A J Lamb, C C Lewis, D A Reeve, P A J DeFreitas, R K Illingworth, G C Small, R A Smith, D R Pringle, P C R Tufnell.
PAKISTAN (from): Imran Khan (capt), Ramiz Raja, Aamir Sohail, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Javed Miandad, Saim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Moin Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Iqbal Sikander, Aqib Javed, Wasim Haider, Zahid Fazal.

David Miller, page 36
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Averages, page 36

that it could happen again tomorrow.

Not even the members of the World Cup committee, three each from Australia and New Zealand, now bother to argue the merits of their rule, and there is no possibility that it will pertain for the next World Cup, wherever it is staged. Equally, there was never a hope that it could be altered or abandoned once the competition was under way; the cup final has to take its chance.

At first glance, little has been left to chance, the allowance of three days for the final a wise safeguard against even Melbourne's fickle weather. But nothing is quite as it seems in this tournament. Three days there may be, but there is no provision for the game being sensibly carried over if rain interferes, as would happen in England. The cut-off point is after 25 overs of the second innings. If the game does not reach that mark, then all previous play is scrapped and a restart is made the following day. Should this happen twice, not impossible in Melbourne,



Prize within reach: Gooch, the England captain, and Imran, his opposite number, who meet in the World Cup final tomorrow

Spectacular stage

THE Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), which stages the World Cup final, is the largest cricket ground in the world, its capacity recently enlarged to 108,000 by the building of the Great Southern Stand. With Australia eliminated, that figure will not be tested tomorrow, when a 90,000 crowd is expected. The MCG staged the first ever Test match, in 1877, and was the main stadium for the 1956 Olympics.

Cricket's first attendance of over 90,000 watched the Saturday of the fifth Test match against West Indies at the MCG in 1961 and a total of 350,534 were present over the six days of the third Test against England in 1937.

The world's first video cricket scoreboard was erected at the MCG in 1982 and floodlights were installed in 1985, producing a magnificent setting for both the traditional and pyjama game.

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Chelsea challenge date of purchase

BY DENNIS SIGNY

AN APPEAL by Chelsea football club in the High Court yesterday may delay completion of their purchase of the Stamford Bridge ground this week for £22.85 million. Completion day for the sale has been agreed for Thursday, following a recent High Court ruling that Chelsea and SB Property Company Limited, the owners, should set an immediate date to finalise the deal.

Chelsea, though, have made a counter claim for damages of more than £20 million. David Newberger QC, for the club, told the court yesterday that they could have received £15.8 million for the ground in 1989, the year after they exercised their option to buy, and they also claimed a further £6.8 million. The club had sustained loss because of the subsequent collapse of the property market. He agreed with Lord Justice Dillon that the club felt that all other legal matters should be dealt with before completion of the ground purchase.

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

personal triumph for Roger Faulkner. Born in Derby, he was one of the pioneers of the North American Soccer League and was the head of Michigan's bid.

Apart from the novel value, which ensures that the World Cup will leave a significant footprint in history, the location was ideal. Detroit can be reached within four hours by the whole of the Canadian

The largest enclosed arena in the world, it will house the first World Cup tie to be played indoors. The home of the Detroit Lions, it was used for the 1981 Super Bowl as well as for the Pope, Madonna and the Rolling Stones.

A month ago, the United States beat the Commonwealth of Independent States 2-1 there in front of a crowd lower than half of its full capacity, 78,000. The game was played on artificial surface, which is to be replaced by grass grown elsewhere and laid especially for the tournament in two years.

The Silverdome was chosen ahead of the Superdome in New Orleans, the other indoor arena under consideration, and represents a

dangerous when the captain gives them their head; sometimes, too, it seems they are at their most effective amid constant internal bickering, usually orchestrated by Javed Miandad.

Considering he was laid low with a suspected stomach ulcer a few weeks back, Javed's influence on the Pakistan revival has been immense. His half-century on Saturday was his fourth of the tournament and, while he no longer seems equipped to engage top gear, the team's innings invariably revolves around him.

Inzamam-ul-Haq has only twice shown the formidable

stroke-playing in which Imran places such faith, both times when it was necessary within a punishing run-chase. One thing is certain: if England bowl as loosely as, at stages, they did on Sunday, he will be greatly encouraged to do it a third time.

England are sufficiently concerned about the control of their attack to try to pitch up Derek Pringle with a painkilling injection. If this succeeds, and if Lewis operates as he can, rather than as he did in the semi-final, they still ought to be good enough. With Pakistan in opposition, however, nothing is ever predictable.

Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, assailed the organising committee for staging the competition at the end of the Australian summer and for the regulations for rain-affected games.

South Africa were the latest victims of the rain rule in their semi-final against England in Sydney on Sunday. The South Africans lost by 19 runs after a stoppage for rain near the finish. Their target of 22 from the last 13 balls was revised under tournament rules to an impossible 21 off one ball, after a time when players and spectators were confused about exactly how many deliveries were to be bowled.

Imran said: "I think it's a ridiculous rule. The World Cup is too precious, it's once in four years, we shouldn't have a rule like this which decides the fate of the team." He said the best remedy was to play extra time.

"They should have had an extra day, like they had in England [in the 1987 World Cup]," Imran said. "I suppose people did not expect it to rain in Australia, but then they should have had the World Cup in the middle of the cricket season and not at the tail-end. In the previous World Cup, it was right in the middle of the cricket season."

Kepler Wessels, the South African captain, called for more balanced rules governing rain interruptions. "The consensus is to finish the game on one particular day, but it may be better to continue the game into the second day," he said in reference to the reserve days set aside for semi-finals and final only.

Peter Roebuck, former captain of Somerset, writing in a Sydney newspaper, said it was "one of the most shambolic finishes of this illustrious game". Roebuck wrote: "Seldom can so much harm have been done to any game by the application of finicky rules by authorities who plainly knew no better."

The World Cup committee, which decided on the rain rule — and all the other regulations — consists of Malcolm Gray, former chairman of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), David Richards, chief executive of the ACB, Des Rundle, its treasurer, Graham Dowling, former New Zealand Test captain and now chief executive of the New Zealand Cricket Association, and two other New Zealanders, Peter McDermott and Barry Paterson.

In Delhi, Sunil Gavaskar, the former Indian captain and other commentators savaged rule-makers as "pedantic".

World Cup to use indoor arena

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

personal triumph for Roger Faulkner. Born in Derby, he was one of the pioneers of the North American Soccer League and was the head of Michigan's bid.

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The Silverdome was chosen ahead of the Superdome in New Orleans, the other indoor arena under consideration, and represents a

population and half of the United States.

Soldier Field, the comparatively ancient home of the Chicago Bears, is the other arena selected in the Midwest. Fifa has also broken with tradition by choosing Giants stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, in the Northeast.

Although the playing area is two yards narrower than

than the Fifa regulated 110 x 75 yards.

LOS ANGELES: The Rose Bowl, in Pasadena, this stadium seats 102,000 and was the ground on which the 1984 Olympic football final was staged.

NEW JERSEY: Giants Stadium. Home of two NFL sides, the New York Giants and New York Jets, it holds 78,881. Previously the stadium housed the world renowned Cosmos football club, which attracted leading players including Pele and Best.

ORLANDO: The Florida Citrus Bowl. Seats 60,000 in the City most famous for Disney World, which hopes to boost an already thriving tourist industry during the tournament.

SAN FRANCISCO: Stanford stadium. Holding 88,000, it has staged two NFL Super Bowl finals and football in the 1984 Olympics.

WASHINGTON: RFK Stadium. Home to NFL champions, Washington Redskins, it seats 55,672.

permitted in Fifa's regulations. The law was overlooked. The Americans felt that it was vital for one of the venues to be near New York.

Among the surprising omissions is the Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami. The Citrus Bowl in Orlando instead and it may be significant that one of the leading sponsors of the tournament is Disney.

Atlanta, the hosts of the Olympics in 1996, was also overlooked but two of the sites used for the Los Angeles Games in 1984 were selected. They include the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, which can accommodate 104,000 spectators and will be the biggest arena in the World Cup.

The Coliseum in Los Angeles was the main Olympic venue eight years ago but, because planned refurbishments have yet to start, it has been discarded. Fifa will announce, at its congress in Zurich in July, where the final is to be held. The probable location is the RFK Stadium in Washington, which could also feature the opening tie.

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LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 24 1992



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Philip Thody begs
to demur

I joined the academic profession on October 1, 1954, at the beginning of what is now seen as a golden age. If it didn't look like that to me at the time, this was mainly because my first job was a four-term, temporary assistant lectureship. On January 1, 1956, my appointment would end, and I would be out on my ear, looking for work in a profession where most appointments run from October to October.

This unusual arrangement had been set up to suit the convenience of the Professor of French, who was going on sabbatical by a slow boat to his native New Zealand. To compensate me for my inconvenience, I was to be paid £500 a year instead of the £450 at which assistant lecturers usually started, and I would have been prepared to settle for less. The Robbins Report was still an unseen gleam in somebody's eye, and five other clever and hungry young men, out of the 50 or so applicants, had been invited for interview for the job that I got.

My foolishness paid off. Another university proved ready to appoint me, on January 1, 1956, as an ordinary assistant lecturer, and I began, slowly, to catch glimpses of the possible future gold. Life was not ideal. My new professor was not much of an improvement on the sun-worshipping vegetarian who had proudly informed me, as he embarked for Wellington, that he was not going to have to look at a book for more than a year.

Until the early 1960s some universities still practised the system, referred to on one occasion by the Oxford sociologist A. H. Halsey in his latest book *Decline of Donnish Dominion*, by which assistant lecturers were used as a cheap form of slave labour. They were appointed for three years, with no prospect of a permanent job, and replaced at the end of that time by somebody just as cheap, and just as vulnerable to the bullying whims of their professor.

Within a week of taking up my new appointment I realised that there were circumstances in which the Professor Welsh of Kingsley Amis's *Lucky Jim* could seem by comparison a generous, far-sighted, learned and intelligent man, eminently suited to the profession whose salary scales enabled him to draw a salary four times of the assistant lecturer.

Decline of Donnish Dominion, The British Academic Profession in the Twentieth Century, Clarendon Press, Oxford, £40



When, in December 1956, my new professor and his wife condescended to take tea with us (protocol forbade junior members of staff from inviting anyone as senior as him to dinner), the atmosphere was admirably summed up by the question which his wife asked him over the Marmite sandwiches: "Yes, my dear, I've always wondered. Where do assistant lecturers go, in winter time?"

The dawn came, of course, as I now realise that it was inevitable it would. Not only had I joined a profession that was about to expand, I also belonged to the group with the highest statistical chance of becoming a professor: male pupils from a state school, with a First from Oxford, Cambridge or London, and who published a number of books early in their career. I was also a member, as I realised later, of the demographically favoured group which was exactly the right age to benefit from the Robbins Report. Like a subaltern commissioned into the regular army in 1939, and blessed with a magic invulnerability to shells and bullets, I could not avoid becoming a professor.

I have enjoyed the experience, and tried to give better value for money than that clown I replaced in my first job and the paranoiac who did everything he could to make my life a misery in my second.

If I recognise relatively little of my own experience in Professor Halsey's book, it is partly because I have been very lucky. I have had

very co-operative colleagues and extremely efficient secretaries. The combination has enabled me, by mixing an instinctive gift for delegation with an acquired guile in the arrangement of the timetable, to devote an average of three hours a day in term time either to research, to writing articles for newspapers, to making highly enjoyable trips to London for the civil service, or to visiting other universities to give lectures.

My situation is consequently very different from that of the female sociologist in one of the new universities who told Professor Halsey that she had to work "60-70 hours a week... to get any scholarly work done". I suspect that she has been hornswoggled into serving on too many astute committees — the statutory female, unable to counteract the fact that the participation of women in academic life is, as Professor Halsey puts it, "patchy, passionate and peculiar".

But even if she does have to spend more than 30 hours a week dealing with the "increase in demands for student contact" and "increasing administrative demands", that can only be for 36 weeks a year. If she is in the right job, the rest of her time is not spent on "work" in the normal sense of the word. It is spent pursuing the activities which give her the greatest satisfaction and which will win her the approval of her peers.

It is this opportunity, especially enjoyed by academics in an arts faculty, of being paid to pursue their hobby, which makes me less

indignant than Professor Halsey thinks his readers ought to be that salaries have remained stationary in real terms, while those of other professions have "risen by a third since 1975", and that the average salary of a university teacher in Great Britain, which was 3.7

'If British industry had performed as well as the universities we should easily be as rich as the Japanese.'

times that of a manual worker in 1928/9, had fallen to only 1.54 times in 1988/9.

Bully for the manual worker, I say. The people who create the wealth that enables Professor Halsey and me to write our books rarely give the impression of doing something interesting. And they never enjoy the priceless gift of being able to work for their own part, when it suits them and not when their employer tells them.

I naturally think that my junior colleagues, especially in science, should get more money. But the fall in academic salaries, as Professor Halsey acknowledges, was inevitable from the moment that

the Robbins expansion took off and the 4 per cent annual growth rate in the British economy — on which his assumptions were based — did not take place. I can see no reason why I should be paid more than a schoolteacher. Unlike me, he works in difficult, often dangerous conditions, has much less time to pursue his hobby, and does a job of far more obvious use to society.

I do not, in saying this, seek to decry the universities. As Professor Halsey points out, they have served the country well. Trinity College, Cambridge, houses 28 Nobel Laureates compared with seven for the whole of Japan. If British industry, business and commerce had performed as well as the universities have over the past 40 years, we should easily be as rich as the Japanese. The universities also do quite a good job in promoting social mobility. Compared to eight other European countries with "the same class structure of occupations" we come top in the proportion of graduates coming from outside the middle classes.

France is bottom, which is one in the eye for Raymond Williams, who, as Professor Halsey puts it, "makes the acid point that those who could be called intellectuals in other countries are in Britain mostly brought up in a system of private education designed for a class which includes leading politicians, civil servants, company directors and lawyers". If you miss out the crack about private education (an allegation contradicted by the finding in *Decline of Donnish*

Dominion that you are statistically more likely to get a First if you come from a state rather than a public school), this is surely a good thing.

I explain the relative sanity which British academics show in their political opinions by the fact that they do not constitute a separate intelligentsia. It was, after all, a French sociologist, Alain Touraine who, "after the May Events, sketched a view of the university as a polarised factor of intellectual production, owned, managed and controlled in the interests of the ruling class", and Professor Halsey's earlier reference to these events as a disaster suggests that this is a view which he considers, as Jeeves did, to be fundamentally unsound.

I am, as the Americans would say, chronologically challenged, and about to be put out to grass, and I feel that the system has done me proud. I'm glad that the differential in salary between arts professors and their non-professional colleagues has gone down to about 1.8:1, and that the power of the professorate has been reduced.

Even if I had not been anxious to be as little like my first two professors as possible, the general change in relationships among colleagues would have compelled me to act in a more humane and considerate manner as well as to take my job seriously. The greater equality between members of the same profession is one of the several bonus points which Professor Halsey's rather gloomy assess-

ment fails to take into account. He also exaggerates when he argues that it is no longer the academics who decide what is taught in universities but their students, and no longer the scientists and scholars who choose their research topics but the civil servants and businessmen who provide the external funding.

This is not a change I have noticed myself, although I might have been more conscious of the threat to independent research if I had been at Salford or Aston in the early 1980s. It is true that we're being made to go modular, and cannot therefore make quite such exclusive claims on our students' time as we did in the past. But we still decide what is taught, and the changes in my own subject have not been dictated either by students or by civil servants. If I now do most of my teaching in French, and talk more about France and the Common Market than about Proust or symbolist poetry, that is because I think it is a good thing on academic grounds.

It is also what my students want. Philip Thody is professor of French Literature at Leeds University

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TOMORROW
150 years of the Vienna Phil

Peaceful pleasures of being past it

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon on the pea-brain scraps of youth

Two cock pheasants were squaring up to each other in the field behind the house this morning. Their dark heads were about four inches apart, their eyes locked in the March madness of the toe-to-toe. I watched them for about ten minutes, while I was dressing. Their plumage shook; their heads bobbed up and down, as if their pea-brains were magnifying identical poles. It may be foolish to anthropomorphise a pheasant but the scene did look comically familiar — much like the lads in the Sorrell Horse at closing time, facing off over an unseemly glance at Nicola. At such moments, it feels great to be settled in mid life, a condition otherwise known as being past it.

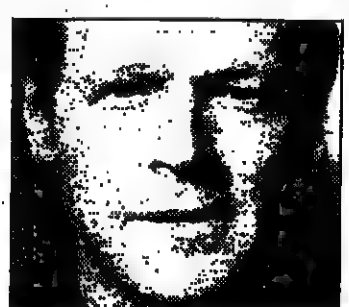
The cocks finally worked themselves up into combat. The old champ in the blue-green drawers launched himself at the young contender, aiming a below-the-belt talon. The young pretender immediately took fright and flight and spun into the air. The older, heavier champion was slower to

get off the ground and flapped in pursuit. Closing for the killer blow, he tried to aim a right cross, unsent himself in flight and nose-dived close to the ground. They both landed near to the fence, where they recomposed themselves with deep breaths and consoling worms, as if they were feeling "Thank God we don't have to do that again".

This scene of testosterone-driven absurdity reminded me of my own last and ridiculous fight, 22 years ago come Easter. I had gone to meet an old school friend at a local five-a-side tournament. Some local boys took against our appearance. I was favouring an *Easy Rider* look of motorbike jacket and Peter Fonda shades; my friend tended to the George Harrison style of long Afghan coat and grannie specs. The local boys barracked and jeered us into a rage and, at

length, their champion and I locked horns, running up and down the field for 20 yards aiming kicks and punches at each other. When we were too exhausted to continue, we fell apart, panting and bleeding and glad to agree that honour was satisfied. As we separated, an old man walked by, pushing his bike, wearing a flat cap, raincoat and bicycle clips. He looked at me through rheumy eyes and said, very deliberately, "I seen girls fight better'n'at".

Thank God I'll never have to do that again. Contrary to the legend that all young men love violence and are made for it, the truth is that they are, like the birds, fearfully incompetent in a fight. Posturing and menacing, flexing pecs and biceps — all that comes



indeed, as second nature to adolescent boys as to fighting cocks; but the techniques of landing clean and damaging blows and escaping unharmed yourself is as foreign a study to most young men as Finnish. Speaking of which, we come to examinations.

I have never felt so glad not to be young as I did a few nights ago when I was talking to the 19-year-old daughter of a friend about her coming "mocks" and the weeks of trial she faces in June.

"Are you anxious?" I asked. "No, I'm not anxious," she said. "I'm petrified with terror. This is my one and only chance: if I make a mess of these exams, my life will be ruined."

Poor hen. What can we say to comfort her? A 19-year-old cannot know what a 45-year-old has discovered — that a life is not ruined by an examiner's ruling or a fouled-up interview but is a steady accumulation of balls-ups, failures and mistaken moves, no single one of which is finally fatal. I could have told her that all the

anxiety which twisted me awake at night over exams was worthless and, further, that the degree to which they all lead has been perfectly useless. No potential employer has asked to see it. I could have claimed a double first in mathematics and nobody would ever have questioned it.

All those young cocks and hens who are now squaring up to the terrors of the examinations should take an hour off to watch the video of *Peggy Sue Got Married*. They may find consolation there in the scene where Kathleen Turner, time-warped from her middle-age back to her high-school mathematics class, tells the teacher "I happen to know that I shall never, in all my life, have use for trigonometry". The greatest regret of her midlife, she discovers, is that she did not take her chance to bond with the class

stud and peer outlaw. I know that regret: what troubles me now about my school years is not the cock-up I made of the European History paper but the failure of my feeble heart to make known its yearnings for Brenda Wareham.

There are, however, two reasons why I should not wish to be 18 again and open my heart to that sony lady bright of the Upper Sixth: first, it would mean that I should have to sit the European History paper again; and, second, it would mean that I should have to go eyeball-to-eyeball with Alan Clements, jealous guardian of all that pulchritude. Given the choice, now, between a double first or a tryst with Brenda Wareham, I would unhesitatingly take the date. It, however, that chance of bliss also required me to act like a brainless cock pheasant, I should have to decline and declare, with Chevalier, that I am ecstatically happy to be past it.

TOMORROW
Single Life: Lynne Truss

2nd June, 1992 An important date for English Silver

Our London silver sale in February realised £1.2 million with more than 90% of lots sold of which over 60% achieved prices on or above the high estimate. This proves that current demand remains buoyant and the market for English silver is strong. We already have some outstanding items for our next sale on 2nd June, including a magnificent Paul de Lamerie tureen made in 1736.



A George II silver soup ladle by Paul de Lamerie, London, 1741. Estimate £4,000-5,000.

CLOSING DATE: 31ST MARCH

The June sale also features some exceptional Elizabethan spoons, Carolean tankards, Georgian candlesticks and coffee pots and other important pieces. We would welcome fine items for inclusion in this sale, the closing date for which is the end of this month. So, if you are considering selling, please contact Peter Waldron or Eileen Goodway of our Silver Department on 071-408 5104/5100, as soon as possible.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE
SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: Tonight brings the world premiere of *Dark Horizon*, Oliver Hinde's new ballet choreographed for a cast of nine men. The same programme also features Gaila Samson's new production of *Les Sylphides* and Hilda van Marum's fiery Latin number, *Five Tangoes*. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8519), 7.30pm.

AHMAD JAMAL TRIO: The American jazz pianist much favoured by Miles Davis and considered to have influenced the trumpeter considerably, arrives in London for two dates. Jazz Café, 156 Parkway, London NW1 (01-284 4368), 8.30pm.

THE JUDAS TREE: Despite its title, Kenneth MacMillan's newest ballet is neither Biblical nor religious, but it is about a man betraying his best friend. Choreographed for 14 men and one woman from the Royal Ballet, *The Judas Tree* includes two murders, one rape and a hanging in the space of 40 minutes. The commissioned score is by Brian Elias. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1088), 7.30pm.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: In the first of two concerts at the Barbican this week, the orchestra is joined by the distinguished pianist Dmitri Alexeev. The programme, conducted by Andrew Litton, comprises Verdi's overture to *La Forza del Destino*, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. On Saturday the orchestra performs Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* under the direction of Sir Charles Groves. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-238 8891), 7.45pm.

ANNA KARENINA: Fair and ingenious in shared experience's reworking version of Tolstoy's novel. Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (01-238 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm, 16mins.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot high on energy, low on story treatment. Adelphi, The Adelphi, WC2 (01-238 8404). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins.

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's clever award-winning memory play, set in 19th-century Donegal. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-404 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins. Final week.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne and Pauline in Arndt Dorfman's Chelton political drama. Best play of 1991. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-238 5125). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

DOWN AND OUT IN PARIS AND LONDON: Paines Plough make Orwell's witty book a feast for the eye and sharp vignettes of early 20th-century life. Riverside Studios, Chiswick Road, W6 (01-748 5354). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 135mins.

AN EVENING WITH DARYL LIVERK: Sometimes civil and at other times a woman named to a 600000. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (01-494 5075). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 4.30pm, 135mins.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Celebrating musical celebration. Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-238 4401). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm and 8.30pm, 135mins.

A HARD HEART: Architect Anna Murray challenges what she claims to be love in her first novel. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-238 5125). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Trevor Nunn's ongoing production. David Hogg's play, revived by Clare Burrell in Foulwell's Avenue. Young Vic, The Vic, SE1 (01-238 0411/238 8363). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, Sat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 210mins.

NEW RELEASES

APOLYPTIC NOW (115): Coppola's apocalyptic Vietnam odyssey, revived in 1970. Martin Sheen as the special agent with orders to kill. Martin Sheen's role. MGM Shattsbury Avenue (01-238 6774/7475).

LA BELLE NOBLESSE (115): Jacques Rivette's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. With Jean-Pierre L  aud, Emmanuelle B  art, Jane Birkin. Cinecitt   (01-238 3742/3743).

BUGGY (115): Warren Beatty as Buggy Siegel, the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sleek, witty, dazzling. Directed by Warren Beatty. MGM Shattsbury Avenue (01-238 6774/7475).

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SHINING THROUGH (115): Opatov's preposterous wartime drama, with Melissa Griffith as the US Government in Berlin. Stars Michael

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LONDON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: The "Birthday Honours" series continues with a concert celebrating the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach 307 years ago. The orchestra plays his Brandenburg Concerto, Concerto in D for Oboe and Violin, Concerto No. 2 for Violin, Suite No. 1 in C, and the St. John's Passion. Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington, London SW7 (01-275 8519), 7.45pm.

WILLARD WHITE: The powerful bass-baritone gives a recital of Schubert Lieder, Brahms, Ravel, Copland (Old American Songs), Mozart and Verdi, accompanied by pianist Roger Vignoles. St. John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 7.30pm.

BRUCE MARDEN - IN PRINTS: Emerging in New York in the 1950s, Marden was more of a social realist than an Abstract Expressionist at the beginning of his career. But his work was gradually modified under the influence of classical architecture. More recently his work has returned to the social, caligraphic quality of his first phase. His prints, many of the finest in black and white, parallel his paintings, and collectively make up one of the most important bodies of graphic work in recent American art. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-238 8891), 7.45pm.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (S) on release across the country

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DOUBLE TAKE: The general subject of this large international show is the work of the American artist, even the designer, and the 22 artists included are all very conscious of living in and on the mass media's vast store of shared experiences. Works are inside the Hayward and scattered around in the open; the media are sometimes improbable. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (01-281 0127). Daily, 10am-5pm (Tues, Wed to 8pm), until April 18.

TALKS IN LONDON: Lou Reed, who is currently playing at the Hammersmith Apollo, drops in at the National to give a platform talk on his work, mainly at the Barbican, College, Galsbolle Pollock delivers a lecture entitled "Avant-Garde Cinema" (10am-12pm). Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-238 8891). Daily, 10am-5pm (Tues, Wed to 8pm), until April 18.

OPERA 80: The company moves to the new space of the Barbican, designed by Stephen Medford, designed by Anne Mansel Greville is elegantly sung by David Ellis. Opera Theatre, Hendford, Aveoli (085 22894), 7.30pm.

ROLLING COASTERS: Lovers of the Jesus and Mary Chain's grungy guitars and shattered melodies will welcome this chance to see the band joined by the blues-rockers, the Bo Diddley Quintet, Apollo, Ardwick Green, Manchester (061-273 3775), 8.30pm.

A SWEET PARTY: Four singers, two poets, a musician, a comedian, a writer and a musician. Vauxhall, The Strand, WC2 (01-238 8404). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins. Final week.

TALKING HEADS: Fabian Roudoud and Alan Bennett excellent in three of his monologues. The monologues are excellent and the music is excellent. Vauxhall, The Strand, WC2 (01-238 8404). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins. Final week.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES: Brothers: Lively parade of untold blues. Good fun. Vauxhall, The Strand, WC2 (01-238 8404). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins. Final week.

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA: Alfred Molina and a superb ensemble. Ailsa in Terrence Williams' play on the effects of sexual repression. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-238 2222). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm, 180mins.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Grand version of the old thriller. James by Christine, Vard and Weber but not Lloyd Weber. Shattsbury Avenue, WC2 (01-238 6774/7475). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 160mins.

THE POCKET DREAM: Foully. Ailsa in Terrence Williams' play on the effects of sexual repression. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-238 2222). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm, 180mins.

THE RECRUITING OFFICER: Nicholas Hytner's good-natured production, rather too good to be true to the play's darker content. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-238 2222). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm, 180mins.

SOME LIKE IT HOT: But what we get is lukewarm. Tommy Steele in poor comic version of it. Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (01-734 8551). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 160mins.

BOHISTICATED LADIES: Twelve women in a room. The music is excellent. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-238 5125). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

THE PRINCE OF TIDES (115): New York's best director helps football coach Tom Hanks' heroic journey. Romantic drama with Hanks and Robin Williams. Directed by Barry Levinson. MGM Shattsbury Avenue (01-238 6774/7475).

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DANCE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LONDON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: The "Birthday Honours" series continues with a concert celebrating the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach 307 years ago. The orchestra plays his Brandenburg Concerto, Concerto in D for Oboe and Violin, Concerto No. 2 for Violin, Suite No. 1 in C, and the St. John's Passion. Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington, London SW7 (01-275 8519), 7.45pm.

WILLARD WHITE: The powerful bass-baritone gives a recital of Schubert Lieder, Brahms, Ravel, Copland (Old American Songs), Mozart and Verdi, accompanied by pianist Roger Vignoles. St. John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 7.30pm.

BRUCE MARDEN - IN PRINTS: Emerging in New York in the 1950s, Marden was more of a social realist than an Abstract Expressionist at the beginning of his career. But his work was gradually modified under the influence of classical architecture. More recently his work has returned to the social, caligraphic quality of his first phase. His prints, many of the finest in black and white, parallel his paintings, and collectively make up one of the most important bodies of graphic work in recent American art. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-238 8891), 7.45pm.

ANNA KARENINA: Fair and ingenious in shared experience's reworking version of Tolstoy's novel. Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (01-238 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm, 16mins.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot high on energy, low on story treatment. Adelphi, The Adelphi, WC2 (01-238 8404). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins.

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's clever award-winning memory play, set in 19th-century Donegal. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-404 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins. Final week.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne and Pauline in Arndt Dorfman's Chelton political drama. Best play of 1991. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-238 5125). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

DOWN AND OUT IN PARIS AND LONDON: Paines Plough make Orwell's witty book a feast for the eye and sharp vignettes of early 20th-century life. Riverside Studios, Chiswick Road, W6 (01-748 5354). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 135mins.

AN EVENING WITH DARYL LIVERK: Sometimes civil and at other times a woman named to a 600000. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (01-494 5075). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 4.30pm, 135mins.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Celebrating musical celebration. Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-238 4401). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm and 8.30pm, 135mins.

A HARD HEART: Architect Anna Murray challenges what she claims to be love in her first novel. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-238 5125). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Trevor Nunn's ongoing production. David Hogg's play, revived by Clare Burrell in Foulwell's Avenue. Young Vic, The Vic, SE1 (01-238 0411/238 8363). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, Sat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 210mins.

THEATRE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (S) on release across the country

LA BELLE NOBLESSE (115): Jacques Rivette's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. With Jean-Pierre L  aud, Emmanuelle B  art, Jane Birkin. Cinecitt   (01-238 3742/3743).

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Looking for Leonardo's autograph

One of these paintings from the studio of Leonardo da Vinci may be the work of the master himself.

Richard Cork scans the evidence

While remorseless scientific investigation continues to whittle away at the number of Rembrandt's authentic paintings, Leonardo da Vinci's oeuvre is about to undergo a dramatic expansion. The vicissitudes of time, combined with Leonardo's notorious reluctance to complete ambitious projects, have left only a dozen or so paintings confidently regarded as his handiwork. Now, however, the leading Leonardo authority, Martin Kemp, is proposing to add another image to this select group of pictures. Or rather, he has arranged a gladiatorial combat between two rival paintings. Belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch and a private collector in New York respectively, both versions have impressive claims to be considered a Leonardo original called the *Madonna of the Yarnwinder*.

The contestants will be brought together on May 15 at the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh, backed up by a scholarly catalogue from Professor Kemp. If one of them emerges as a clear winner, its owner will have good reason to feel gratified. For both paintings have generally been regarded as nothing more than the best surviving copies of a lost original. In his classic book on Leonardo, Kenneth Clark only accorded them a brief footnote. While acknowledging that one authority claimed the Buccleuch version as authentic, Clark declared that it "seems to be a fine studio replica".

When Kemp published his prize-winning study of Leonardo in 1981, he concurred. "I considered the Buccleuch painting to be a high-quality studio work with some participation by Leonardo," he says. The principal value of both versions appeared to lie in the evidence they provided of what the vanished original looked like. Over the past decade, though, Kemp has gradually changed his mind. "I'm now convinced," he explains, "that there is a type of small devotional picture which, while not

as incontestably fine as the *Mona Lisa*, deserves to be regarded as a Leonardo. And since I have altered my view about what constitutes a genuine Leonardo, the prospects for finding the original *Yarnwinder* painting have changed as well."

Kemp's willingness to revise his opinion of the two versions stems, in part, from his awareness of the painting's history. By the beginning of the 16th century, when Leonardo started work on the *Yarnwinder* composition, leading collectors of the day vied for his work. Among the most powerful was the formidable Isabella d'Este, the Marchioness of Mantua. She tried to procure a painting of the Christ Child from Leonardo, "made with that air of sweetness and suavity which is peculiar to you to the highest degree". She met with no more success than her influential rivals, so Florimond Robertet, secretary to Louis XII of France, was lucky indeed to obtain the *Madonna of the Yarnwinder* from Leonardo.

We know about this surprising commission from letters written to the thwarted Isabella by Fra Pietro da Novellara, head of the Carmelites in Florence. On April 14, 1501, he reported that the "little picture" which Leonardo was painting for Robertet was "of a Madonna seated as if she were about to spin yarn. The Child has...grasped the yarnwinder and gazes attentively at the four spokes that are in the form of a cross. As if desirous of the cross he smiles and holds it firm, and is unwilling to yield it to his mother, who seems to want to take it away from him."

Christ's impulsive movement, lunging across the picture-space in a diagonal thrust, provides the composition with its daring sense of energy. But his eagerness to grasp the yarnwinder also provides Christ's death on the cross. Hence the Madonna's attempt to shield his body with her left hand, while she stretches out her other hand in a gesture of alarm. The mother wants to protect her son



Two versions of Leonardo da Vinci's *Madonna of the Yarnwinder*: from the collection of the Duke of Buccleuch (left) and from a private collection in New York

from his premonition of death, and yet the melancholy in the Madonna's face seems to acknowledge the inevitability of the crucifixion.

Hovering with immense subtlety between affection and anxiety, playfulness and tragedy, the *Madonna of the Yarnwinder* is one of Leonardo's most original inventions. The painting became enormously popular, spawning a prodigious array of copies and adaptations throughout Europe. Its fame led art historians to assume that the picture produced for Robertet must have been executed entirely by Leonardo, himself. But Professor Kemp now thinks otherwise.

"Robertet wouldn't have got

a wholly autograph Leonardo," he says. "We know the difficulty he had in finishing pictures, and the fact that Robertet succeeded where Isabella and other patrons failed to acquire a Leonardo bears out my belief."

In Kemp's view, the painting eventually dispatched to Robertet was conceived and partly painted by Leonardo, but carried to completion only with the help of his assistants. They are known to have played an important part in his studio, and recently discovered evidence shows that Leonardo was remarkably unwilling to part with the paintings he had executed entirely with his own hand. The *Mona Lisa*, the *Virgin, Child, St Anne* and a

Lamb and the lost *Leda* and the *Swan*, all among his greatest achievements, remained in the artist's possession throughout his life.

So which of the two competing versions is the one Robertet received around 1506? In terms of provenance, the Buccleuch picture scores higher marks. New research has established that the painting was owned in the early 18th century by the Duc de Tallard, and Robertet was once reported working with a duke of that name. The condition of the Buccleuch picture is also finer. Apart from surface dirt, yellowed varnish and cracking, the painting is in an excellent



state. Moreover, it is on the original panel, whereas the New York version may at some stage have been transferred to canvas.

The latter painting also suffers from discoloured retouchings, but remains an attractive painting nevertheless. The distant range of hazy blue mountains is closely akin to the mysterious landscape in the *Mona Lisa*. No such romantic setting has been bestowed on the Buccleuch version, where the promotional thrusting into the sea are, according to Kemp, "difficult to reconcile with Leonardo's own gift".

On the other hand, Kemp is convinced that the extraordinarily accurate limestone rocks

in the foreground of the Buccleuch picture "are absolutely brilliantly painted," and he adds: "I'll bet my life that Leonardo did them." He also believes that the figures, while not quite as compelling, are of "very high quality".

Leonardo's involvement with the Buccleuch painting is confirmed by recent reflectography investigations. They have revealed, in the underdrawing, a number of changes in the Child's upraised arm and the Madonna's face. Reflectography has, however, disclosed corrections or changes in the underdrawing of the New York version as well. Such evidence suggests that the painting should not be regarded as a copy, but in the

end Kemp feels that the Buccleuch version is the one sent to Robertet. Despite the signs of studio participation, particularly in the seascape, the painting accords better with Leonardo's work in the early years of the 16th century. The New York picture is more likely to be "a late product of the master's studio, executed directly under his control and perhaps with his participation in the figure group".

When the two versions are unveiled in Edinburgh, arguments will doubtless rage over their relative merits. Whatever the final outcome of the battle, though, the Buccleuch family's love of their painting is unlikely to alter.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Brahms, briskly

Since a performance which I heard Sergiu Celibidache conduct a few years ago, I have to confess a bias against Brahms's Requiem, which on that occasion seemed to drag on for a lifetime. But I am open to persuasion, and the performance by the London Classical Players that Roger Norrington conducted as the focus and climax of *The Brahms Experience* at the weekend instantly dispelled misgivings.

In many respects, it was revolutionary. For one thing, the chorus (the Schütz Choir, whose attack, blend and discipline was exemplary) stood at the front, basses and sopranos on the extreme left, tenors and alto opposite, thus creating a clarifying polychoral effect and a more immediate, better balanced sound. For another, Norrington was happy, as many historically-aware conductors sometimes are not, to allow the orchestra its full palette of colours — sinewy oboes, rasping stopped horns, low contrabassoon and bassoons resounding with loud, impious raspberries.

Norrington refused to be weighed down by the sternness others see in the work, though even he could not make some of the heavier movements (the final "Selig sind die Toten", for example). His speeds were lively and his overview was decidedly dramatic rather than self-indulgent, yet without a hint of superficiality. "Denn

alles Fleisch" has surely never sounded more terrifying, even when sung by chorals forces five times as great. Only the poorly tuned singing of the soprano, Lynne Dawson, spoils things; the baritone, Otif Bar, was at his resonant, magnificent best.

In contrast to previous "Experiences", some of the preparatory events seemed decidedly contrived; nevertheless it was pleasing to hear Norrington read poetry by Matthew Arnold and Arthur Hugh Clough. The musical preparation included a short, elegant recital of songs tied in with the Requiem and mostly by Brahms, that Bar gave with John Toll at the fortepiano and an equally brief chamber recital of movements from the First Cello Sonata and the Horn Trio in which Melvyn Tan, at the same fortepiano, presented impressive late-Romantic credentials.

Saturday night's concert was of pieces by Schütz, Gabrieli, Palestrina (a wonderfully intense reading by the Schütz Choir of the Kyrie from *Missa Papae Marcelli*), Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms. It intelligently showed influences on and connections with the Requiem. Talks and discussions further helped with context. However, there was a hideously scratchy, unsympathetic performance in the first movement from the Op 34 Quintet (strings-only version).

STEPHEN PETTIT

RADIO REVIEW

Rather protocol than politicians

If the BBC's Court correspondent, Paul Reynolds, doesn't pick up an OBE for his services to royal relationships, he should certainly get something from the RSPB — that's the society for listeners who are Really Sick of Political Broadcasts, of course.

For 12 glorious hours on Thursday, Reynolds managed to mudge the speechifying and mud-slinging down the day's news order, although listening to James Naughtie teasing the tale of royal revenge out of him on *The World at One* was hilarious. The lugubrious Reynolds seemed to have come from *The Mail* unsure what to do with the heavily marked card that must have been in the pocket next to his pounding heart. Had the Queen's Man really said those things about the fragrant Duchess of York? And were they meant for Reynolds's ears only, or had he been primed to let slip the corge of war on network radio?

Naughtie was in no doubt. Court correspondents, well-versed in the genteel equivocations of Palace briefings, are perhaps unprepared for

scoops: but Naughtie was determined to let Reynolds have his, and he succeeded so spectacularly that the interview was repeated later that day in the middle of the election roundup programme. There was an irony to that, too — according to Reynolds, what was making the Queen angriest of all was the fact that the York affair was taking people's minds off the pressing business of the general election.

Oh well, now that Radio 4 is in the royal watching game, we can expect the story to run and run. How long will it be before *The Money Box* is giving Andrew advice on how to apportion child allowance, and for the Duchess of York to appear on *You and Yours*, talking about the problems of being a one-palace family.

Of course, you could abandon news radio altogether and seek out what appears to be an endless run of astonishing all-star theatre elsewhere. In Craig Warner's *A Sense of Things Moving Forward* (Radio 4), there was Ben Kingsley as a driven, murderous and ultimately crazed Co-



Dirk Bogarde: perfect as one of Pinter's old men

lumbus, stealing America out from under its residents while Frances Barber, as Queen Isabella, sat in Spain screaming for gold.

But better was to come, on Radio 3 last Sunday, in a perfect production of Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land*. Dirk Bogarde and Michael Hordern were the two old men meeting by chance or otherwise on Hampstead Heath, with Keith Allen and Bernard Hill as Hordern's menacing

henchmen. The play was described variously as enigmatic and impenetrable when it opened in 1975, and it says a lot for our moderated attitudes to homosexuality that it now seems neither of those things. Janet Whitaker's production was a masterclass in good acting and storytelling: 97 minutes of joy, without a tax hike or royal indiscretion to be found.

PATRICK STODDART

TELEVISION REVIEW

Proof of valour but not of point

He was tough, lean, mean. A man among men. Real men; men you could rely upon, should the defence of the realm require the trunk of an oak tree to be hauled 28 miles across rough terrain, barefoot in the dark, after 12 days of living on water and nettles.

"Okay, listen in," he barked at three down soldiers. He was a paratroop officer; they were about to embark on a 15-day course of gruesomely strenuous physical tests that would make or break them (rather literally, it transpired) as paratroopers: the hard men of the British Army. The documentary *P-Company*, shown last night in Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* series, followed the action.

And what action! There was the droll game in which everybody ran up and down a steep hill 20 times carrying a 43lb knapsack. Or the oily "log race" — not yet the Olympic event, perhaps because the

fatality rate might be unacceptable on television. This involved teams lugging a giant log across country while instructors screamed obscene exhortations.

For light relief came gymnastic exercises ("Bend your shagging knees" bellowed a sergeant), and then an amusing event in which candidates had to walk along a narrow girder high above the ground. "Nothing to be afraid of up there; it's only the height of a five-storey building," shouted the instructor at a trembling soldier showing signs of the worst disease known to macho-men: in the jargon of the trade, "no bottle".

Para-jargon is a formidable obstacle course in itself. Men running for miles in full combat gear are "tabbing" (Tactical Advance to Battle) — and if they are so exhausted they collapse, they suffer the indignity of being "Arty-yewed" (Returned To Unit). Injuries (there are plenty) are no excuse. "There are certainly cases of people going sick, dare I say it, because they feel sorry for themselves," said the officer, barely concealing his contempt.

Indeed, the course seemed devised to be heart-breaking as well as back-breaking, since candidates are not told until the end how they are doing.

One decided to take part in the log race despite a serious injury: missing an event indicates a "wrong attitude". "What he doesn't know," said the commentary, "is that he has already failed."

Cutting Edge superbly conveyed the culture of "beyond the limit" physical endurance, without ever posing the crucial question: why? Is this punishing routine necessary in military terms? Recent Falklands documentaries have tended to suggest that paratroop deriding-do — lightning hikes into enemy country — are the modern equivalent of the Charge of The Light Brigade: astonishingly brave feats of arms, but strategically insignificant in our age of smart weapons. The course separates the men from the boys, but to what purpose? This programme offered blood, sweat, toil and tears, but precious little context.

RICHARD MORRISON

ARTS BRIEF

Rites of spring

THE world premiere of the stage adaptation of crime writer Ruth Rendell's novel *A Judgement in Stone* is likely to be one of the highlights of Mayfest, the tenth Glasgow International Arts Fair, which will be running from May 1 to May 23. During the course of those three weeks there will be theatre, dance, music, comedy, exhibitions and arts-related events happening at venues all over the city. Other world premieres include a production of *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle*, based on Hugh MacDiarmid's poem, while Sir Yehudi Menuhin is conducting the world premiere of

Ronald Stevenson's Violin Concerto at the Royal Concert Hall on May 21.

Cornish cream

MICHAEL TOOBY, the 35-year-old keeper of Sheffield's Mappin Art Gallery, is to be the first keeper of the Tate Gallery of St Ives. The new gallery is being built by Cornwall County Council and will show the 20th century painting and sculpture in the Tate's St Ives collection.

Last chance...

SOME critics thought Alan Bennett's monologues, *Talking Heads*, better on television than on stage. But here is the author in the flesh, and Patricia Routledge in the roles of two desolate loners. The final performance is at the Comedy (071-867 1045) on Saturday.

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The school of whose choice?

When children are turned down for a school, parents are forced to take a lesson in appeals procedures, says Davina Lloyd

At just this point in the academic year parents are coming up to a bridge in their children's education. Throughout the land they are receiving notification of the new schools to which their children have been allocated: which primary schools in the case of five-year-olds and rising fives, and which secondary schools for 11-plus.

Most, satisfied with the placement, will be preparing their children to cross the bridge to the next stage of their school careers. For others, the news will present instead a yawning chasm in their hopes and expectations. Their child has not been accepted at the school of their choice.

They thought they had a choice. What gave them this idea was Section 6 of the 1980 Education Act. This was reiterated in last year's Parents' Charter: "You have the right to say which school you prefer." Except...

They do not have the right to choose a school, only to express a preference. There follows the proviso in the Parents' Charter: "You have the right to a place in the school you want unless it is full to capacity with pupils who have a stronger claim."

Parents believing that they have a stronger claim to a place in a particular school discover that a wide gap exists between their reasons for selecting one school and the criteria applied by the local education authority (LEA) that made the selection.

Anne and Peter Ford, whose son Alexander is now 11, chose a school outside the west London borough of Ealing where they live. Their chosen school, Chiswick High School in the neighbouring borough of Hounslow, is exactly the same distance from their home as Acton High School, the alternative in-borough choice.

"We were told last September that Ealing, which had previously operated a three-tier system (first, middle and secondary schools) had changed its policy and we could select a secondary school for Alex to start at next September," Mrs Ford says.

"What we didn't know was that Ealing had only 'applied' for the change; it had not been agreed by the education department."

"We knew we could choose to go out of borough, but it wasn't made easy. Parents were supposed to send in applications for Hounslow schools before the open days for visiting and assessing Ealing schools. We visited seven schools, in and out of borough, and put Chiswick High first on our list of four choices."

"Right up to January there was no official news. Then I heard that the DES had deferred their decision, and eventually in February we were told that Ealing 11-year-olds would not be starting second-



Alexander Ford of Chiswick at Southfield school, in Ealing borough: he could not move to Chiswick High School because he lives on the wrong side of the boundary

ary school in September after all. "We have been very satisfied with Southfield, the school where Alex is now, but we felt as he'd be 12 by September, it was time for him to move on. It became even more crucial to know whether he'd been accepted out of borough."

Ten phone calls later, she learnt that he had not. Chiswick is a popular school and was over-subscribed. The Fords had been turned down because their house was just over the borough boundary.

"We feel very angry," Mrs Ford says. "Alex was born in Chiswick, we live in Chiswick and always expected that he'd go to Chiswick High. I just don't know how to tell my son he hasn't got a place in the school he wanted to go to."

The Fords are about to exercise their next right, the right to appeal against the local education authority's decision. "We feel cheated about the business of choice. We are anxious about having to appeal, but determined to do it."

The most recently-available figures show that in 1988/9 there were 15,000 appeals nationwide and 40 per cent were successful — still leaving six out of ten unhappy families.

Even those who have won their case have not all been satisfied with the appeals process. One such couple in the West Country, whose son was eventually admitted to their chosen school, are reluctant to be named in case it should prejudice the case for their second child, for whom they feel they will have to repeat the process.

"At every stage we felt discouraged from proceeding further. We had to sit at a large table with seven people, including three on the appeal committee, the county solicitor and a clerk. The whole business was intimidating. Though we won, it was awful to be next to the head and feel we were losing our son into her school."

What parents consider valid reasons for their choice may be at odds with the admissions criteria which bind LEAs. "Sibling connection" is a prime reason for admission by local education authorities. "We're doing everything we can," said one couple, "but we can't suddenly produce an older brother or sister already at the school."

"Proximity" is another criterion for admission, though plenty of parents are prepared to "bus" their children to their chosen school. Robert and Sue Brown, from Bolton, moved house to be near their chosen primary school, St Thomas Chequerbent, in Westhoughton. "Our house was about 100 yards from the school, and we put Sally's name down a year before she was due to start school. We thought we were bound to get her in," Mr Brown says.

They didn't. Because they did not know that admissions for schools in the "voluntary-aided" category, like this church school, are carried out by governors who establish their own criteria.

"At the appeal, there were three on the committee: a council lawyer, the local vicar and a representative from the Manchester Diocesan Council of Education. It seemed that all they wanted to know was whether we were regular churchgoers. I became very angry, especially when I found out that the church's contribution to the school was only 8 per cent, and the rest came from the local authority."

The Browns lost their appeal and moved again, three miles away, to be near the newly-built Eastock County Primary, Daisy Hill. "We are more than happy with our daughter's progress at

Eastock, it's a brilliant school. We've no quarrel with the education authority, but I still think the whole procedure was a sham."

Stuart Jackson, the admissions officer for Bolton, who accompanied the Browns to their appeal, often finds himself sitting on the other side of the table when dealing with appeals about schools in the state sector. "Schools in Bolton don't operate in catchment areas and we are fortunate. 98 per cent of our parents get their first choice of secondary school."

"Primary-school admissions are arranged by head teachers, and locally they get together to sort out placements to try to avoid parents having to go to appeal."

He sometimes has to deal with angry governing bodies when the appeals committee has ruled in favour of the parents and they're forced to take children over their "standard number" (the agreed number of children in each year group). The admission authority has to prove at an appeal that admitting a child would prejudice efficient education at the school: allowing an appeal could make a large class even larger.

Last month Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said he would be considering changes in allocating capital expenditure, "to ensure that, for the first time, good schools which are over-subscribed or overcrowded will be eligible for money to expand, even where there are spare places in other maintained schools in the area".

Meanwhile, some parents move house. Some try to comply with an individual school's criteria. (One couple admitted that they held no strong religious beliefs but alternated attendance at church services on Sundays to fulfil their local church school's requirements.) Some vote with their feet, educating their children at home. Others vote with their cheque books: 7.4 per cent of school-age children go to independent schools, up 30 per cent in 12 years.

Certainly parents now have at least a chance to get their child into the school they want. ACE (Advisory Centre for Education), an independent service, says the area of school choice and appeals is one of the top three subjects on which they are asked for help.

"And it is sad, but true, to say those parents better at understanding and fighting the system will also have the wider choice."

The author is the editor of Parenting Plus magazine.

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How to stay the course

Could studying divorce make it less likely to happen?

Are you qualified to consider divorce? It is a complicated business which should not be entered into in the heat of the moment. But then, according to the latest thinking, neither should marriage. As attention focuses on the swift split between the Duke and Duchess of York, a proposal for a course to prepare people for both marriage and divorce is being put forward.

Today, at a meeting of the Family Mediators' Association, Anne Hooper, a psychotherapist and relationship counsellor, and the author of *Divorce and Your Children*, and Elizabeth Muirhead, a family mediator and matrimonial lawyer, will be floating their idea of a course for couples (or individuals) contemplating divorce.

The course would cover everything from dealing with emotions and handling conflict. Ms Hooper says, to legal and financial rights and managing with regard to children.

"We would provide information on the new Children Act and discuss questions such as whether to stay together for the sake of the children, which, if you are not completely miserable, is probably worth doing because of evidence of the detrimental effect of divorce on children's development," Ms Hooper says.

If you are determined to part, but want to do it at the least damaging time for your children, the course tutors will advise that when they are eight or nine is the most difficult age: old enough to understand the difficulties and take the blame, but not old enough to develop defences.

The course could assist parents in determining the best pattern for contact with their children after divorce. "A sense of stability and continuity is so important — letting them see grandparents,

"Tutors will discuss whether to stay together for the sake of the children"

ANNE HOOPER

making sure they've got a place to call theirs in both parents' homes. Involving their friends in activities — simple things, which the section on children would cover," Ms Hooper says.

For the moment the course is called *Thinking about Divorce* but, aware that the title may not be attractive to some, it might change to something along the lines of *Relationships and how to survive them*, or maybe simply *Surviving*, Ms Muirhead suggests.

Ms Hooper, a divorcee who has chosen not to marry her long-time partner and fellow counsellor Philip Hodson, says the idea of the scheme is to offer people help that they desperately need at an earlier stage than they often get to Relate — and at a price they can afford. An hour-long session with a Relate counsellor costs up to about £20. A two-hour group session on the "divorce course" would cost no more than £12. "Doing it in a group doesn't just mean the price can be low — it gives a sense of support, of not being alone in your problems," Ms Hooper says.

There will also be social support which we hope will grow out of the group, whereas so often in this situation people feel unbearably isolated.

Last year Relate counsellors saw 62,000 couples and waiting lists can be up to six months in some areas. By the time people come under the calming influence of a family mediator or conciliator, they may be past reconciliation — when they could learn similar ways of compromising while still communicating within a marriage, Ms Muirhead feels.

"As a lawyer I see so many clients who are unable to cope," Ms Muirhead says, "and they ask questions such as 'what shall I do when the car tax runs out?' which should not have to be answered by a lawyer who charges up to £250 an hour — or who is allocated only £120 by Legal Aid to handle a divorce. Lawyers and judges waste highly-trained time discussing matters which could have been worked out in advance — or which might not have come to court if the two parties had learned how to resolve conflicts earlier."

The two women — who became friends after Ms Muirhead handled Ms Hooper's divorce — are developing lists of books to recommend, and of self-help groups to which to refer people. If the course idea is approved by the family mediators today, they hope that the pilot sessions will start in May.

Needless to say, they would be delighted if one particular couple came along — and feel they could be helped considerably.

VICTORIA MCKEE
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Father's loving opposition at home

The daughter of a former MP recalls youthful attempts to promote his cause and wonders whether a 'supportive' family is the last thing a politician needs

My father was elected to Parliament in 1941. I was too young to care much but my elder sister, on being informed of his success, asked eagerly, "Now will he have his name on a paper bag?"

She was at school with the daughter of a local greengrocer, a girl held in the greatest esteem by her classmates because she brought her lunch to school in a bag imprinted with her father's name. Perhaps, my sister hoped, her own father's achievement might mean elevation to a similarly exalted plane.

For our father, this was the beginning of many years of having his enthusiastic family getting hold of the wrong end of the stick. We supported him, naturally, but alas there were many occasions when the sort of support that seemed a good idea to his four children was not seen in the same light by his constituency party.

In the 1945 election campaign, for example, appalled at the feebleness of the sober posters provided by the Conservative party, we got our paintboxes and designed our own, with which we festooned the front of our house and most of the rest of the street. "Smith and Jones Stink" was one of our plottings. "Smith is a Beast." "Jones is a Rotter." "Don't Vote for Smith or Jones They are Crooks."

Our harassed father, returning from a day's campaigning, found the pavement outside our house thronged with opposition party workers, complaining bitterly of his caustic behaviour, and threatening writs.

Something similar had hap-

pened not long before, at the end of the war with Germany. Inspired by the gaiety of the flags bedecking the town, we rushed to The Palmeira Stores with the contents of our moneyboxes. "Some Union Jacks, please," we asked, politely, but the assistant said, "Sorry, sold out. Sold out of everything except these."

"These" looked all right — a bit boring, perhaps, but better than nothing, and they were pleasantly cheap, too. In no time at all they were bedecking the front of our house, and within minutes, angry constituents were telephoning my father's agent demanding to know why their MP was displaying a triumphant run of Rising Suns, while the war with Japan was still raging.

Incidents like these probably contributed to our father's decision to move us out to the rural hinterland, where we were not quite so evident. However, we still turned up at fund-raising fetes and garden parties, where, broke and desperately competitive, we continued to embarrass him with our skill at winning races, rolling pennies and guiding rings along wiggly electric wires, so that we invariably left carrying more money than we had arrived with.

We did have a few good points. We became highly skilled at answering the telephone in a variety of foreign accents, taking on the role of various mythical maids and secretaries and thereby protecting him to some extent from unwanted callers.

We played these roles at parties, too. When our parents entertained, my sisters and I loved being the maids who took the



Anthony Marlowe, MP for Hove, and daughter Julia: the opposition was the least of his worries

coats and handed round the mugs. Even more did we enjoy the moment when the guests went in to dinner, and we were free to retire to the room where we had piled up all the coats. A happy evening could then be spent trying everything on and generally dressing up. Any loose change left in pockets we naturally appropriated, regarding it as a tip.

When my elder sister reached the magic age of 17, and started going to parties, she once "borrowed" from this heap of visitors' coats a magnificent mink stole, and went out for the evening. Amazingly, the stole's owner went home forgetting that she had brought it with her. By the time of her next morning, the stole was safely back in our house and my sister was happily sleeping off a most successful evening.

One of my father's friends rose to very great political heights: the highest, in fact. I was never able to see photographs of him, subsequently, without remembering the incident involving him and my little sister, at the Albert Hall.

This particular man was to address a large regional gathering of ladies, and my mother was the leading light in the organising committee which had arranged the event. As such, she sat with half a dozen other women on the platform, immediately behind the great man. She was reluctantly accompanied by my sister, aged about six, who had an unexpected day off school.

By the time all the preliminary announcements and warm-up speakers were finished, my sister was already bored stiff, but she had had the foresight to take with

her something to read. The speaker rose ponderously to his feet and cleared his throat; his audience waited, rapt and admiring, but his demeanour was shaken as the applause degenerated into a swelling ripple of laughter.

My mother sweats she saw him glance anxiously downwards at his trousers, to see if the explanation for the merriment lay there, but that was not the reason. Facing the audience, he could not see what they could see: a small girl sitting just behind him, who gave an enormous yawn, stretched herself luxuriously, reached into her pocket and brought out a crumpled copy of *The Beano*.

In common with many of his parliamentary colleagues, my father was a member of one of the old-established London clubs. It was here that I telephoned him, distraught, when I arrived home



from school to find that he had sold our family car. Family cars in the 1950s were not the transitory objects they are today: people moved into them, as into houses, and stayed for years. My stick, Henry, had a permanent home in DGP 735's boot. Laboriously, I had burned its name into the wood, using the rays of the sun through a magnifying glass. Henry was a very long-standing companion.

"I must speak to my father, straight away," I gasped to the club porter. "It's terribly important."

The porter was one of a long and noble line of club porters, whose chief purpose in life was to protect the eccentric members of the club from the even more eccentric members of their families.

"Your father is playing bridge, miss," he intoned. "But if you would care to send him a message, I will endeavour to bring you a reply."

"Please," I sobbed, "ask him what he's done with Henry."

I held on for a long time, with a thumping heart. At last the porter returned to the telephone.

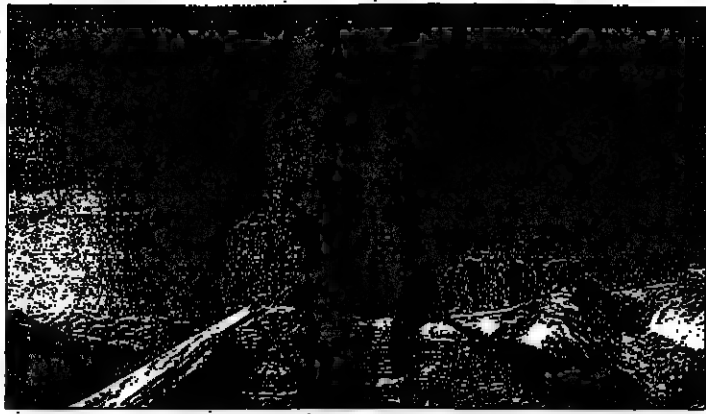
"Are you there, miss?" I was. "Your father sends his compliments, and says — ah — you will find — ah — Mr — ah — Henry in the umbrella stand." This good man came from generations of retainers whose was not to reason why.

Elections came and went, as they still come and go. I am never surprised by the sheer exhaustion on the faces of the candidates by the time polling day arrives, and I am always intrigued when, in their speeches of thanks, candidates insist that they owe a huge debt of gratitude to their families. Surely ours was not the only political household in which the opposition was the least of the candidate's worries?

JULIA KNIGHT
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Summit of a dangerous career

It takes a special kind of courage to earn your living skiing down a 65 degree slope. Adam Baines on the latest exploit of extreme skier Pierre Tardivel



Pinnacle of achievement: the near-vertical face of Mont Aiguille

On June 26, 1492, one hundred and two days before Columbus discovered a new continent, seven of the most distinguished men in France set out to discover a new dimension. Three months before Ferdinand and Isabella's colours flew over America, Charles VIII ordered that a team of climbers scale the Mont Aiguille, a near-vertical peak in south-eastern France. So was mountaineering born.

Five hundred years later, a new challenge hung over the same piece of rock. On January 27 this year Pierre Tardivel, the only man capable of skiing a 65 degree slope, climbed to the summit to see if the walls of this fortress were skiable.

The Mont Aiguille — the birthplace of alpine sports, and a yardstick for human skill and courage for half a millennium, is a rock 40km from Grenoble. At 2,066m, it is a relative beginner by Alpine standards. What makes the peak unique is that in its final 350m, the Mont Aiguille (Needle Mountain) is the solitary survivor of a vast limestone plateau that once joined it to the surrounding peaks. For something over 50 million years it has stood alone, hiding behind almost a quarter of a mile of vertical fortifications.

M Tardivel announced he could ski the peak from the summit. Not an idle boast, but a professional evaluation. M Tardivel, 28, has skied 36 slopes that had never seen a ski, and last year made the first attempt to ski Everest — he had to give up when he discovered he had frostbite in his toes.

He makes a living from carrying his sponsors' colours down slopes that would kill any other skier. He demonstrates their equipment at the limit, and in return they finance his passion: extreme skiing. As in "extremely dangerous". Skiing 65 degree slopes (35 degrees steeper than the most aggressive black run) M Tardivel will only ever make one mistake in his career.

Using aerial photos of the peak, M Tardivel plotted a meticulous route through the Tubulaires — a precipitous gully folded inside the



Pierre Tardivel (right) and René Lecluse on the ascent

colleagues killed in accidents on the mountains. Attention to detail is what keeps him alive.

The skiers reached the summit at noon, but waited for several hours, to let the sun soften icy patches of snow on the west face. The first move was a jump past an overhanging ledge on the summit — falling straight into the gully.

Skiing slopes at up to 55 degrees, in passages only 2-3 metres wide, M Tardivel describes as "skiing inside the guts of the mountain — a narrow gorge hidden between dark, twisting

slabs, little used by climbers because of frequent rock falls.

Simply to climb to the summit was a challenge. M Tardivel and his companion, René Lecluse, each had to climb in their ski boots, with skis fastened to their rucksacks. Several times the passage was so narrow that the gear jammed in the gully. For M Tardivel, however, the climb is a last, vital stage of the preparation — a chance to look at every metre of the run, test the snow, locate patches of ice. Extreme skiing has a high fatality rate. In the last 18 months, M Tardivel has seen three

Five hundred years earlier the French king had seen the rock during a pilgrimage, and decided at once "To see if one could scale this mountain, which is said to be inaccessible".

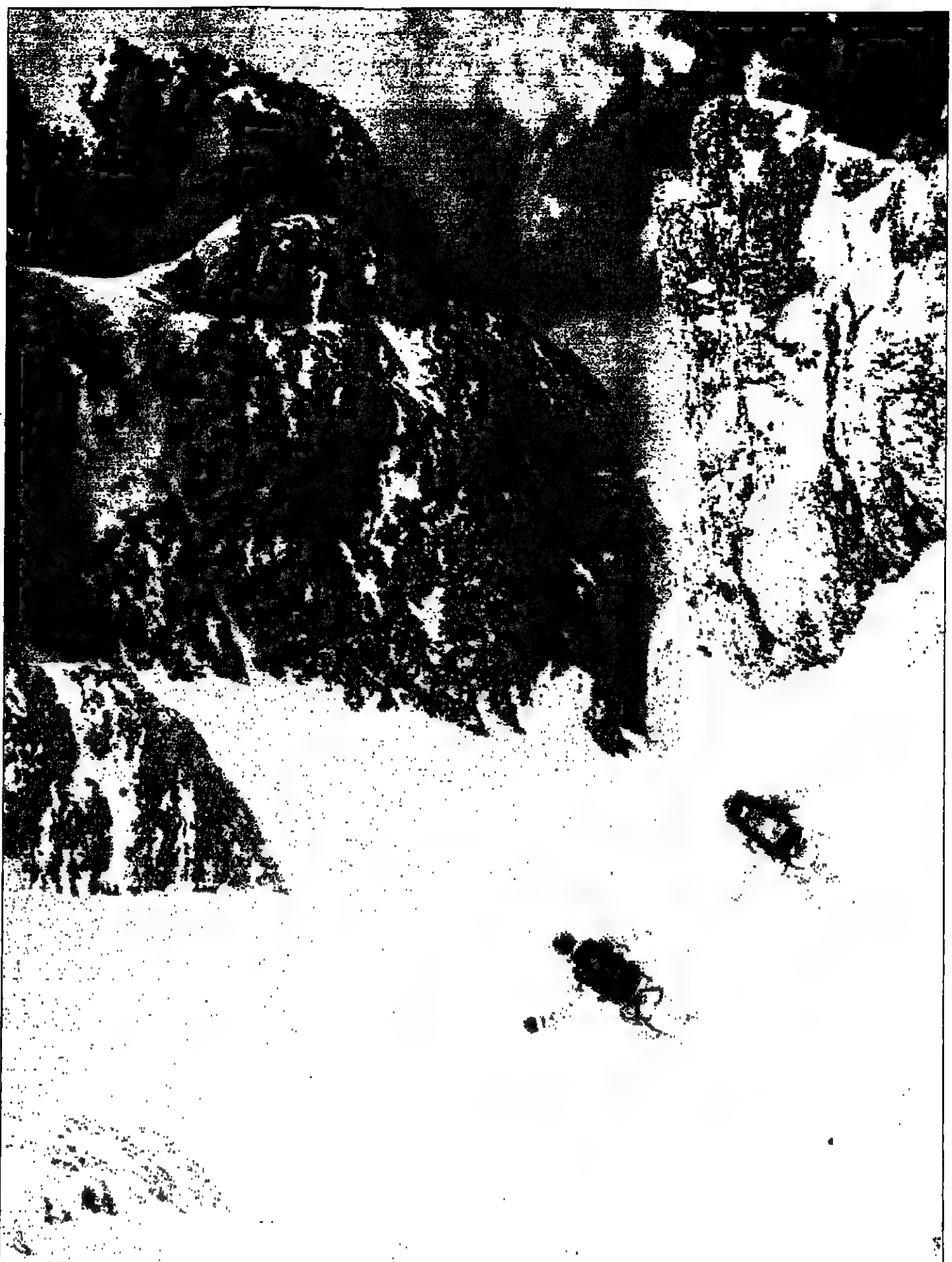
The man he chose for the task was Antoine de Ville. Aged 40, de Ville was Captain of Montelimar, commander of 450 men, and one of the king's most successful campaigners.

De Ville's expedition is a fascinating record of medieval team-building. His technicians were Noble Raymond Juble, siege-ladder builder to the King, Pierre Arnaut, master carpenter, and Cathalin Serret, master stonemason. Just as important were Sebastian Carot, royal master of theology, and chaplain to the King, and François de Bosco, de Ville's personal confessor.

On June 26, after weeks of preparation on site, de Ville successfully led his team to the summit. Little is known about the climb itself, except that the team used two leagues (2km) of ladders, as well as "subtle engines", a tantalising reference that history has never managed to decode.

Even the experience of the climb went largely unrecorded, leaving us only with de Ville's chilly synopsis: "The most horrible and terrifying passage that I, or my companions, have ever seen."

History was in the making — the known world had been extended by a couple of acres, and for the first picture of the new territory we have de Ville's letter to the parliament at Grenoble: "The width of a bow-shot, covered with a fine meadow... and the most beautiful place ever seen." De Ville and his team spent a week on the peak, until the clerk from Grenoble arrived to ratify the expedition. The clerk satisfied himself with the view from the bottom.



No room for mistakes: M Tardivel and companion make their historic descent of one of the world's most challenging slopes

For almost 350 years the Mont Aiguille was left in peace until, in 1834, a young Frenchman climbed to the summit. There he found blackened rocks and debris, presumably the untouched remains of de Ville's expedition.

Elsewhere in the Alps, the vertical was fast becoming public property. In Chamonix, a purse was offered to the first man to climb Mont Blanc. The prize was carried away in 1786 by Accard and Balmat. From then on, the peaks fell like ninepins: the Jungfrau, 1812; the Eiger, 1865. The Mont Aiguille, although

not a major peak, maintained its pioneering role in alpinism. In 1878 the rock saw the world's first "via ferrata" — a steel cable installed by the Club Alpin Français.

With the bizarre logic of climbing, this established route allowed climbers to look for new, more risky passages. Today, a climbing map of the peak looks like a ball of string — hundreds of routes, each calibrated to an exact degree of difficulty. The Mont Aiguille has seen free-climbing, speed climbing, climb-

ers who go up on a carabiner (part of a harness which holds the climber to the rope) and come down on a paraglider canopy, but in the last 50 years, two exploits stand out even by the remarkable standards of the rock.

One is M Tardivel's sid descent: the other took place in 1957, when Henri Giraud decided to set a new standard in aeronautics: "I chose the Mont Aiguille, because it represented an extreme challenge. I wanted to prove that you can land a plane with precision of a bird on a branch. The plane's landing speed was 100kmh, with

a maximum distance of 100m — or you're dead!"

Giraud's skills as a pilot were up to the challenge, and on August 27, he brought the aircraft to a halt on the summit, a stunt he was to repeat 53 times over the years.

M Tardivel, while he survives, can make a living as an extreme sportsman, because the public, like Charles VIII, loves to see a man go where none has gone before. This September M Tardivel returns to Everest, and the cameras will be watching, to see the known world grow again.

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An Afrikaner says her tribe is seldom given the benefit of the doubt, whatever they do

When Claire, my French friend, asked me to teach her Afrikaans, I was delighted. I started off by choosing body parts as the topic of our first vocabulary lesson. This was an unfortunate choice, as Claire then made the sad discovery that Afrikaans lacks an equivalent for the expression "to make love". My explanation that Afrikaners do not need to talk about it, they simply do it, only deepened her misgivings. This devastating quirk of the language had confirmed her worst suspicions of that strange African tribe — the Boers.

As a member of the tribe, I

Taking the bad guy out of the Boer

am convinced that Afrikaners are seldom given the benefit of the doubt. Another friend, an American this time, disagrees. Explaining that people in general, and Americans in particular, do not believe in collective guilt, he instructed me to shake off "this pitiful paranoia".

I remember trying to keep his words in mind when, a

week later, I found myself in a Manhattan cinema watching *Lethal Weapon II*. For those not familiar with the plot, suffice it to say that it requires Joss Ackland, who plays the role of a sadistic South African embassy boss, to eat his dinner while watching his henchmen wrap a corpse in a sheet of plastic. The audience loved it. I was surrounded by a hundred moviegoers baying for Boer blood. Every time an Afrikaner thug bit the dust, the audience would break into applause.

The truth is, the Afrikaner has an image problem. With F.W. de Klerk's slow smile and patient expression becoming familiar to millions around the world, it seemed as though Afrikaners might finally rid themselves of their image as dour, humourless, Bible-thumping bigots. In the run-up to last Tuesday's referendum, however, Messrs Treurnicht, Terre Blanche, and their followers dominated the headlines. They may have lost the referendum, but the face of the baleful Boer still threatens the ascent of the acceptable Afrikaner.

During the apartheid years, the world was fascinated by South Africa's ruling minority in the way one is intrigued by the ungainliness and strangely anachronistic qualities of an ostrich.

Attempts to analyse the soul of Afrikanerdom have resulted in a slew of scholarly works. Television programmes, cartoons, films and popular novels have played an even greater role in perpetuating the image of the belligerent bully. Best selling

writer Larry Bond recently explained that South Africa provides an attractive backdrop for fictional murder and mayhem because "Afrikaners make good bad guys". The Boer has earned the dubious distinction of super villain.

In 1986 I was living in New York and was asked by the CBS programme *60 Minutes* to translate a speech by

'I was surrounded by moviegoers baying for Boer blood'

Eugene Terre Blanche. As I grappled with Mr Terre Blanche's florid prose, the unworthy thought crossed my mind (for no longer than a second, I swear) that no one at CBS knew a word of Afrikaans. Wouldn't I be doing Afrikaners everywhere a favour if I translated creatively and made this singularly unattractive representative of the volk seem just a little more palatable? This was at a time when the Afrikaner needed all the help he could get — the days of P.W. Botha. His nickname was the "great crocodile", and I have it on good authority that he liked it. At least nowadays, a kinder, gentler Afrikaner sometimes appears on the evening news.

Even so, it is going to take a while to allay the world's suspicions. I do not foresee

people's reaction to my accent changing any time soon. I have lived in London for a year now and have become used to the fact that new acquaintances will invariably ask whether I am English-speaking or Boer. It is obvious that they consider English-speaking South Africans to hold more acceptable moral and ethical values.

The Afrikaner has not always had an image problem. During the Boer War he was allowed to play the role of David opposite Britain's Goliath. My grandmother has a framed text of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's description of the Boer warrior on her wall. It boasts such soul-stirring words as "the (Afrikaner) must obviously be one of the most rugged, virile, unconquerable races ever seen upon earth". Ah, yes. Sadly, through his bigotry and intolerance the "modern Boer" of whom Conan Doyle was writing in 1903, had by 1948 relinquished his image of embattled hero for an image far less savoury.

What about the Afrikaner's future image? F.W. de Klerk's courage and integrity has done more for the tarnished image of the Afrikaner than any South African leader before him, including the venerable Jan Smuts. The Afrikaners have ensured, at least for now, that the words Boer and Afrikaner do not once again become synonymous with bully and racist.

Who knows, ten years from now MGM may be searching for a Vivien Leigh and a Clark Gable to star in the production of an epic romance of the South — make that South Africa. And maybe, just maybe, the hero and heroine will be Boers. Anything is possible. After all, tomorrow is another day.

NATASHA MOSTERT
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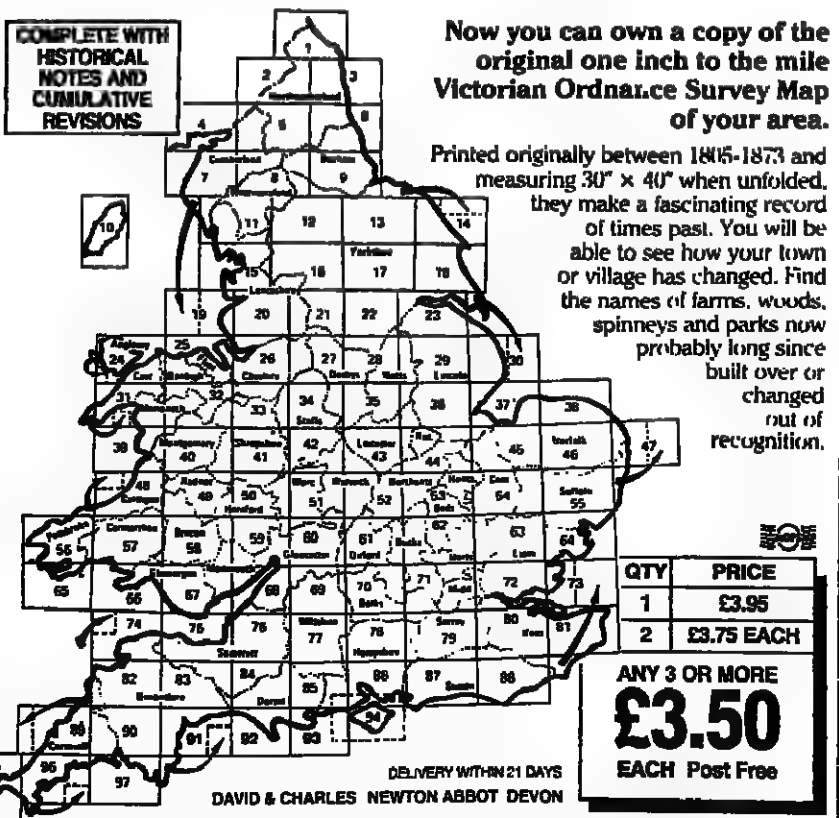
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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Britain's charities are part of the cement that binds our society. Ruth Gledhill looks at the organisation that holds them together



Collecting can be fun: three doctors staged a Jerome K. Jerome anniversary trip, raising funds for cancer research

Umbrella action

Strengthened by the Charities Act, the NCVO backs up an £18bn sector

If the National Council for Voluntary Organisations did not exist, it would have to be invented, says Sir Geoffrey Chandler, the chairman.

The NCVO, an umbrella organisation, has made its name with its support of the voluntary sector and by representing its interests to government, the public sector, industry and commerce.

Serious research into long-term trends affecting voluntary groups, combined with internal developments, have equipped the NCVO to lead the sector towards the challenges of the next century.

Today the NCVO launches a three-year campaign to improve effectiveness and efficiency within the sector by raising £1.5 million to fund its core work.

About 170,000 charities are registered with the Charity Commission, and the number is increasing at the rate of 4,000 a year. The sector as a whole turns over an estimated £18 billion a year. Demands on charities are greater than ever, with the growing emphasis on community care and the move to a "contracting culture", where charities increasingly rely on generating their own funds by providing services.

The 1992 Charities Act, which received Royal Assent last week, brings in legislation to improve the supervision of

charities by strengthening the power of the Charity Commissioners to investigate and remedy abuse. The act also relieves the Commissioners of some of their duties, enabling them to put more resources into monitoring and investigation. Judy Weleminsky, NCVO director, says: "We see the Charities Act as ensuring that there are the right guidelines and framework for charities to operate in the future."

"The act will give guidance and support to legitimate charities and make it much more difficult for illegitimate fund-raisers and other organisations who might wish not to be properly accountable in what they do."

The act comes at a time when charities face increasing challenges by the day. "The voluntary sector is being asked to do more and more with fewer and fewer funds. It is also being asked to be more professional. It is no longer an

amateur sector. There is an enormous need for back-up," says Ms Weleminsky.

The NCVO provides this back-up. Experts handle more than 50 calls a day from the 500 member organisations and other charities requesting legal advice.

With an income of more than £3.7 million, the NCVO represents the sector's interests on funding, campaigning and charity law, encourages the development of new and existing voluntary organisations and publishes a wide range of reports, guides, briefing papers and newsletters. Ms Weleminsky, who raised the profile of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship to unprecedented public prominence as its director from 1986-90, has been involved in local and national voluntary organisations for 20 years. She was one of Britain's first equal opportunities officers, at Wandsworth council in the 1970s, later becoming

employment development officer at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro).

Her first full-time work after leaving university, with a degree in psychology and an MA, was with a transport company. Her career across the commercial, public and voluntary sector gives her valuable insight into the challenges facing charities. A commercial organisation has a clear hierarchy up to the board and is answerable to some extent to shareholders. In the voluntary sector there are numerous workers and volunteers.

"All of them, because they are giving a considerable amount of energy, feel they have a legitimate stake and a point of view which needs to be listened to. This is part of the dynamism but also part of the difficulty."

There has always been public concern about how well the money is spent, she says, or about fundraising methods. "But I think these concerns have often been overplayed."

The commitment of the 23 million people who do some voluntary work each year is often underestimated, she believes. "Most people who work in the sector are paid considerably less than they would be in business and commerce, and yet they give a great deal of energy and commitment."



Judy Weleminsky

Charities for Change: latest in a long line of initiatives

Even charities sometimes need help: a fund-raising campaign launched today aims to provide £1.5 million and a higher profile for the NCVO

The Charities for Change campaign, launched today from Kensington Palace, is a £1.5 million fundraising and awareness drive to "promote efficiency and effectiveness in the voluntary sector".

The NCVO receives some government funding, but is dependent also on support and sponsorship from individuals, charitable trusts, industry and commerce.

During the campaign, companies will be urged to put their names to a project, publication or series of conferences. Donations from individuals and companies are also being sought, through the Gift Aid or covenant schemes.

The campaign will include research and training into the fundraising opportunities and challenges of a single European market, funding for environmental groups, research into the needs of local communities and the unemployed and management and marketing programmes.

Sir Geoffrey Chandler, NCVO chairman, believes a flourishing voluntary sector is "the mark of a humane and civilised society". John Major, in his address to the Charities Aid Foundation last November, said the sector had reached such a scale and diversity that it had become "part of the very fabric of the whole nation".

Sir Geoffrey says: "The voluntary sector has grown hugely over the past ten years. It is immensely diverse and very successful in what it does."

"There is a great need to create awareness of what the sector is about. It is not an alternative to the government, an alternative to the state. It is a third sector in its own right. It does things which the

government and corporate sector cannot do. The voluntary sector is remarkably effective in innovating solutions and getting close to people in a way that no other bodies do."

The NCVO's role as a parent body for nurturing new organisations is little understood outside the sector. From its beginnings in 1919, the NCVO's main work was to provide central services for a number of associated groups and committees, providing finance, office space and staff.

An early objective of the organisation was to provide village halls. It also helped to set up rural community councils throughout Britain from 1920. Acre (Action with Communities in Rural England) became independent in 1987. NCVO provided free office space for the Infant Council for the Protection of Rural England in 1926.

The oldest of NCVO's associated groups was the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, set up in 1919, which became independent in 1980. Citizens' advice bureaux were set up by the NCVO in 1939, with funds obtained from the Ministry of Health, and the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux became independent in 1978. Age Concern was set up as a committee to promote the needs of the elderly in 1940 and became independent in 1970. The Charities Aid Foundation, which became independent in 1974, is a descendant of the Benevolent Fund, set up in 1924.

The Organisation Development Unit, a national black development agency set up seven years ago, has just become independent. Waste Watch, an environment project set up by NCVO in



Sir Geoffrey Chandler: a flourishing voluntary sector is "the mark of a humane and civilised society"

1978 to encourage recycling, is about to go independent.

Sir Geoffrey is concerned to develop more stability and continuity in the sector at a time of recession. Individual, corporate and government giving is falling. The numbers of those in need is increasing while the resources of those who meet that need are diminishing, he says. The disarray of local government, the "contract culture" and the policies of central government are compounded by a lack of understanding of the role of the voluntary sector today.

"Whatever the economy does the problems of the homeless, disadvantaged, one-parent families, children and Aids are not going to go away. Because the sector is so important and effective it will undoubtedly grow. The problem of helping those who fall out of society is where the voluntary

sector is so effective." He fears the "contract culture" could increase dependence on contract funding at the expense of core funding and reduce the effectiveness of voluntary bodies.

Sir Geoffrey is committed to the sector's campaigning role. "Some problems are solved by practical measures such as providing houses. Others are solved by advocating a change of policy."

A former director of Shell Petroleum and former director general of the National Economic Development Office (NEDO), he has chaired the NCVO for more than two years. Volunteering, he says, is an essential element of the British character. "What the voluntary sector has to do is to continue to explain, to insist that it is complementary to the other sectors. It is not an alternative."

Firmier hands on the reins

A law passed last week should help to stamp out fraud

CAMPAIGNING by the NCVO in the 1980s helped bring about the Charities Act, the biggest strengthening of charity law since 1960.

The act increases the powers of the Charity Commissioners to deal with abuse and protect charity property. For the first time, they will be able to appoint a receiver and manager for a charity.

Much of the new legislation is based on the 1987 efficiency scrutiny by Sir Philip Woodfield, commissioned by the Home Office. But the act also includes many of the recommendations of an NCVO report in 1986 called *Malpractice in Fundraising for Charity*. This called for legislation to increase the powers of the Charity Commissioners, to bring an end to bogus fundraising. The new act was considered essential for a sector which now has an estimated turnover of £17 billion and is growing daily.

The NCVO coordinated lobbying on the act as it went through parliament, and was responsible for a large number of amendments. It believes the act will reduce opportunities

for fraud by trustees, increase public confidence and make charities more accountable, although charities will need extra training and support to meet new responsibilities.

A new regime of accounting for charities is introduced by the act, giving the home secretary power to prescribe the form and content of statements of account. Charities which persistently fail to submit annual reports to the commissioners will be committing an offence. Undischarged bankrupts and anyone convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or deception are disqualified from becoming trustees.

The act also makes it an offence to organise a public charitable collection without authorisation and gives charities the right to apply for an injunction to stop unauthorised fundraising. People who give money after a television, radio or telephone appeal will also be able to cancel donations in certain circumstances.

The act also makes charity trustees more responsible for the management of investments and winds down the investment-holding function of the Official Custodian for Charities, a government body that has managed investments on behalf of more than 40,000 charities.

BT - supporting the changing world of charities

The BT Community Programme is a corporate member and major supporter of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

It is currently sponsoring the NCVO's 1992 Training for Employment conference and its management development programme.

BT's community programme covers six main areas:

- People with disabilities
- People in need
- Economic regeneration
- Education
- Environment
- Arts

For further details, please contact the Community Affairs Division, Floor B3, BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. Telephone 071-356 6678.

BT
In the community

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENERGY ACTION

Neighbourhood Energy Action (NEA) is the national energy efficiency charity which is working to provide a permanent solution to fuel poverty through energy efficiency.

NEA wishes every success to NCVO and its 'Charities for Change' campaign

NEA was established as a service of NCVO in 1981. For further information about the work of NEA contact: 2/4 Bigg Market, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1UW. Tel (091) 261 5677.

Trust CAF to take care of your gift to charity.

Setting up your own trust is normally costly and time consuming. There are legal fees, the need to appoint a trustee, to gain approval from the Charity Commissioners and to submit annual accounts thereafter.

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To The Trust Department, Charities Aid Foundation, Foundation House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TZ. Telephone 0892 512244.

Name _____

Address _____

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Please send me details of
the CAF Trust Account ☐
the CAF Legacy Account ☐

UPDATE

Once bitten

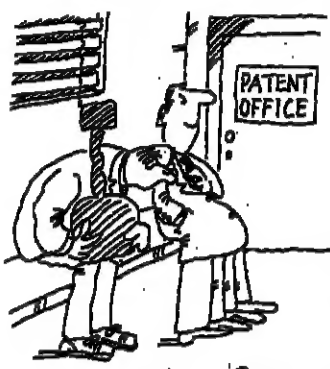
THE World Health Organisation has issued a warning that a highly drug-resistant form of malaria has emerged in Cambodia. It is resistant to mefloquine, developed in the mid 1980s. Hiroshi Nakajima, the WHO director-general, said that 370,000 refugees due to return to Cambodia from Thailand in the next few weeks under United Nations supervision, were at risk. "If Cambodia cannot get enough drugs, there may be a tragedy," he said.

Civilised find

AUSTRALIAN archaeologists have uncovered a 4,500-year-old fortress in the sands of Arabia at Tell Abraq, north of Dubai, covering 10 acres and once home to more than 1,000 people, which proves that early civilisation was more widespread than thought. "This is the largest settlement yet discovered, and looks to be the best preserved," Professor Daniel Potts of Sydney University said.

Leap and bound

AN American inventor, John Dick, has demonstrated a set of artificial legs that enable the wearer to bound across the countryside in huge leaps. The SpringWalker is strapped to the



back, and feet are put in shoes attached to spring-loaded metal feet. Body weight compresses the spring, which uncoils and propels the wearer along. A powered version, not yet available, might allow users "to go looping around like an all-terrain vehicle", Mr Dick says.

Smoked out

ROBERT Bonner, the US Drug Enforcement Agency administrator, has refused a petition to change marijuana's classification under the Controlled Substances Act, in spite of claims that it alleviates the suffering of patients with cancer, glaucoma, and AIDS. The drug's claimed medicinal qualities were false, dangerous and cruel, he said.

Tumour hope

SINGAPORE researchers have pioneered a treatment that may become an effective weapon against cancer tumours, a senior government scientist has said. Y. H. Tan of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology said that MHC, a gene missing in the cancer cells of laboratory mice, had been inserted into cells and reinserted into the animals, killing the tumours. "We don't know exactly how it works, but it alters the immune system to kill the cancer cells," he said.

Dried up

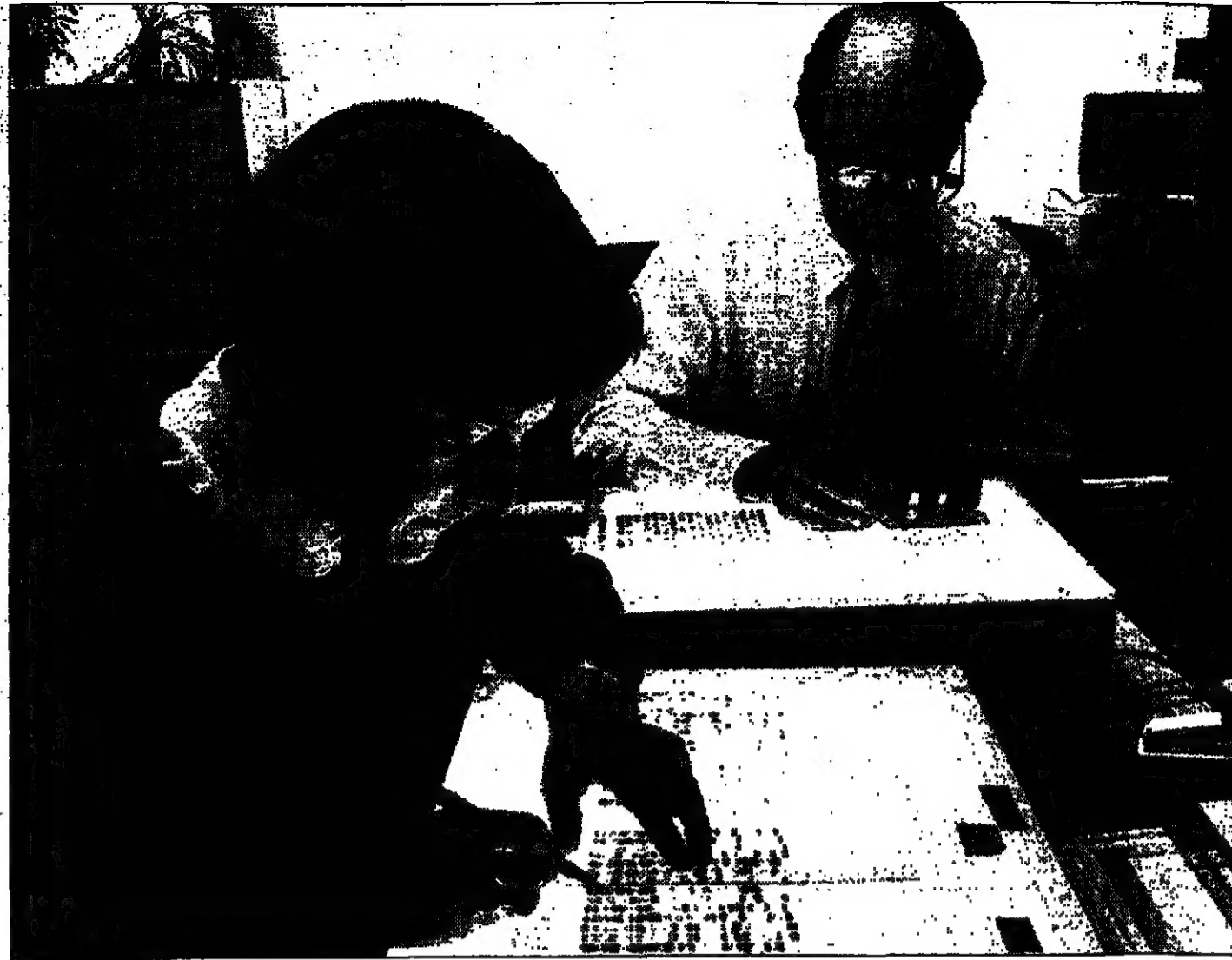
THE collapse of the Soviet Union has meant a crisis in the gathering of ocean data, UNESCO says. Soviet research ships once provided more than a third of the data for the Integrated Global Ocean Service System, a network for gathering oceanographic information. The main shortfall now is data on salinity, vital for following currents and ocean stratification.

Research gift

RESEARCH to develop a blood test for tuberculosis, which still kills 3 million people a year, will start at the Regional Department of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at Manchester's Monsall Hospital. It is funded by the British Lung Foundation with a gift of more than £2,000 from the Allen & Hanbury pharmaceutical company.

What happened to white heat?

Nigel Hawkes reports on why science looms small on the election manifestos of Britain's main parties



DNA fingerprinting: a British idea that was successfully commercialised, but how many others have failed?

In the next five years, science and technology could bring us gene therapy, superconducting machines, cheap solar cells and an answer to the riddle of global warming. From the fundamental particles of matter to the global circulation of the oceans, new theories and fresh understanding are promised. And, of course, there will be surprises, unexpected discoveries that will help shape the world of the next millennium.

Few hints of this are found in the manifestos of the three political parties, published last week. Gone are the days when the Labour party sought to inspire by evoking the white heat of technology, as in 1964; last week's manifesto devotes just one paragraph to science, which reads in full: "Labour's minister for science will develop a national strategy to promote high-quality science and technology, so that Britain can better anticipate and respond to the challenges of the future". Exciting, eh?

The Conservative manifesto hardly sets the blood racing, either. We read: "British science has an unrivalled reputation for ground-breaking research. We believe in investing in scientific research because it enriches the quality of our lives and provides the feedstock of industrial innovation".

Nor are the Liberal Democrats bolder. They promise to increase the government science budget to 0.35 per cent of GDP, and raise it steadily thereafter, but they can afford to promise money which they know they are unlikely to be called upon to find.

After a decade in which budgets have been tight, many scientists have warmed to the Liberal Democrat pledge, however unlikely it is to be met. Younger scientists may be more attracted by Labour's prom-

ise to tackle the career problems that are growing acute in many laboratories. (This promise does not appear in the manifesto, but is made clear in a useful summary of all three parties' positions in the spring issue of *Science and Public Affairs*.) In *The Times* yesterday, 19 leading scientists nailed their colours to Labour's mast, deploring what they describe as the "draining of optimism from the scientific community" and evoking the years before 1979 as a lost golden age.

With unhappy timing, the manifestos arrived at a moment when an initiative dating from that era was collapsing. Immos, the semiconductor company set up by a

Labour government in 1978 and inventor of the transistor microprocessor — the "computer on a chip" — was announcing that it planned to stop producing the device in its plant in Newport, South Wales.

The transistor is one of Britain's few successful semiconductor inventions in recent years. Recently it won the endorsement of IBM, which decided to use the device in the control mechanism of its computers. But Immos, now owned by SGS-Thomson, the French firm, says that it does not make sense to spend the £50 million or so that is needed to upgrade the Newport plant for volume production.

The transistor saga epitomises British hamfistedness in dealing with advanced technology. Set up and financed by Labour, it was shunned by the Tories, and sold off first to Thorn-EMI, and then to SGS-Thomson. As a result, a successful device created in Britain will be commercialised by a French company and made in Roussel, southern France.

What do the parties propose to change this throwing away of inventive talent? Curiously, they all have exactly the same answer, and it is German. With an uncanny similarity of phrasing, they endorse an identical concept for speeding the flow of new ideas from universities into industry.

This unanimity is a feather in the cap of the Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology (Cest), and of the Prince of Wales Working Group on Innovation, the two organisations that introduced the idea of Faraday centres into public dialogue.

The three parties do not use this term in their manifestos: the Conservatives call them centres of technological excellence, Labour calls them Technology Trusts, and the Liberal Democrats regional technology transfer centres. But all three mean the same.

The Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany are the main centres for promoting new technology in industry. They carry out contract

research and provide a centre where young scientists and engineers work for higher degrees on subjects of industrial importance. They transfer ideas between higher education and industry, bridging a gap that in Britain has often yawned alarmingly wide.

Dr Bob Whelan, chief executive of Cest, was the first to suggest that the German idea could be successfully transplanted to Britain, in a report published last year. He now admits to feeling "pretty pleased" that all three parties have recognised its worth. Dr Whelan does not expect the Faraday centres to have the answer to all the difficulties that beset innovation in Britain. The gap between universities and industry is an important factor in the British failure, but only one of a whole host of reasons why innovation is not working properly, he says.

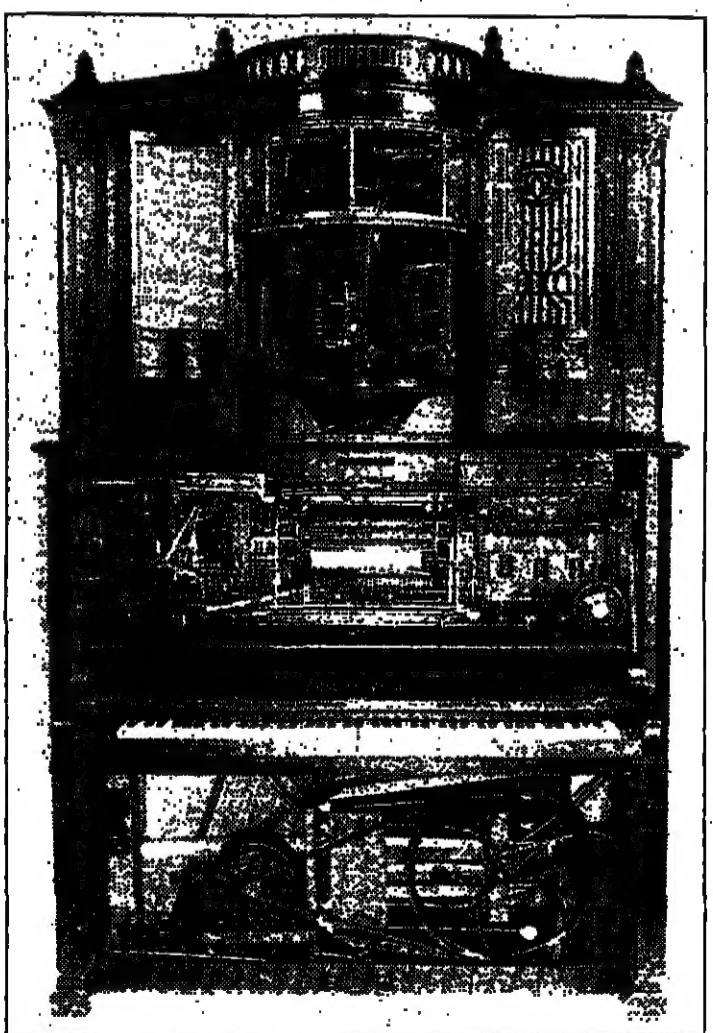
He is also enthusiastic about a second idea floated in the interim report of the Prince of Wales's Working Group on Innovation, the creation of "Cities of Innovation". The idea envisages universities, polytechnics, local government and industry as trying to develop plans for making the best of their local expertise, perhaps even competing for a City of Innovation award, along the same lines as the European City of Culture scheme run by the European Commission. This would possibly recapture some of the vigour shown by Victorian city fathers in promoting their regions.

The agreement over Faraday centres, even if all three parties call them different things, may be evidence that old divisions over technology policy are narrowing. The Immos saga is unlikely to be repeated in quite the same form in the future — though no one who has watched Britain's erratic progress in the past believes that creating a new set of institutions will be enough to transform it.

The cultural attitudes that underlie British failure are too deep-seated for easy change. As Sir Christopher Cockrell, the inventor of the hovercraft, points out, the reason why so many British products do not sell is because they are not good enough; and the reason for this is that manufacturing industry can neither attract nor hold the country's best brains. An election will not change this; what is needed is a cultural revolution.

High notes on a pianola roll

A pre-war musical mechanical wonder is enjoying a remarkable renaissance



A statement of its elegant case: the Hupfeld Phonolizt-Violina

Towering over the sleek black shapes of the latest electronic organs at the Frankfurt Music Fair, the Hupfeld Phonolizt-Violina in its polished wood case staked its claim to being one of the most remarkable mechanical music machines of the 20th century. The Phonolizt-Violina consists of three violins and a piano, powered by bellows and controlled by a pianola-style roll. The violins are orchestral ones, but each instrument's strings are tuned to a single pitch, D, A and E.

A series of hydraulic tubes operates pads that recreate the finger movements of a human player while a circular bow, which must be given plenty of resin, circulates over the violins as each is pushed into the playing position by instructions transmitted by the paper music roll.

Nobody knows how many of the 1925 instruments were built originally, as most of them were destroyed during the second world war, and there are now only about 70 left. Siegfried Wendel, owner of the Mechanisches Musikinstrumentenmuseum just outside Frankfurt, was determined to have one for his collection.

Unfortunately, he had only the bottom half of an original instrument with the engine and piano keyboard, while the late Frank Holland had the top half, which included the three violins, in his Musical Museum in Brentford. Neither man was prepared

to sell, so the reproduction instrument was built by dismantling the two halves and copying the individual components.

The first reproduction instrument, completed last December, took nearly ten years to build. Three have so far been sold to collectors in Japan and two have gone to the United States at \$164,000 (£96,500) each. Mr Wendel is now in Japan, hoping to increase sales in the home of the modern electronic organ.

The Phonolizt-Violina, in a magnificent cabinet of contrasting woods and veneers, stands about 8ft high in sharp relief to the electronic wizardry of the latest electronic organs from Japan that are not much bigger than a piano. The Electone from Yamaha, for example, can reproduce 151 instruments from a violin to a flute using digital recordings of the real instruments, 66 different rhythms and 115 percussion sounds, all of which can be programmed through computer discs. These can also provide extra sounds and effects to be used by the player while he or she plays the double manual keyboard.

The Electone is expected to cost about £30,000, and Yamaha hopes to sell about 3,000 worldwide. These new sounds are all a long way from the gentle drawing room sounds of the Phonolizt-Violina and its pianola roll.

DAVID TYTLER

This week sees a welcome reissue of a famous series of comics that explain important ideas

Big theories brought to book

The re-publication of a series of books that take a highly-original approach to the popularisation of science takes place this week.

Fans of the comic-book style pioneered in the late 1970s by Richard Appignanesi and the Writers and Readers Co-operative will be delighted to see classics such as *Freud for Beginners* and *Einstein for Beginners* back on the bookshelves. On Thursday those two titles, plus *Darwin for Beginners* and *Ecology for Beginners*, will be launched under the imprint of a new company, Icon Books.

These four titles have been unavailable since 1986, when the co-operative went into receivership, but by then they had proved the charms of a serious text married to often hilarious graphics. They were translated into 12 languages and had worldwide sales of more than a million copies.

The charm of the books is undiminished. The have the vigour, jokes, and occasional vulgarities of a comic strip, but tell a serious story. "The books aim to simplify ideas, but they don't patronise our readers," Mr Appignanesi says. "They are rooted in the liberal British tradition of self-education and robust Hogarthian illustration".

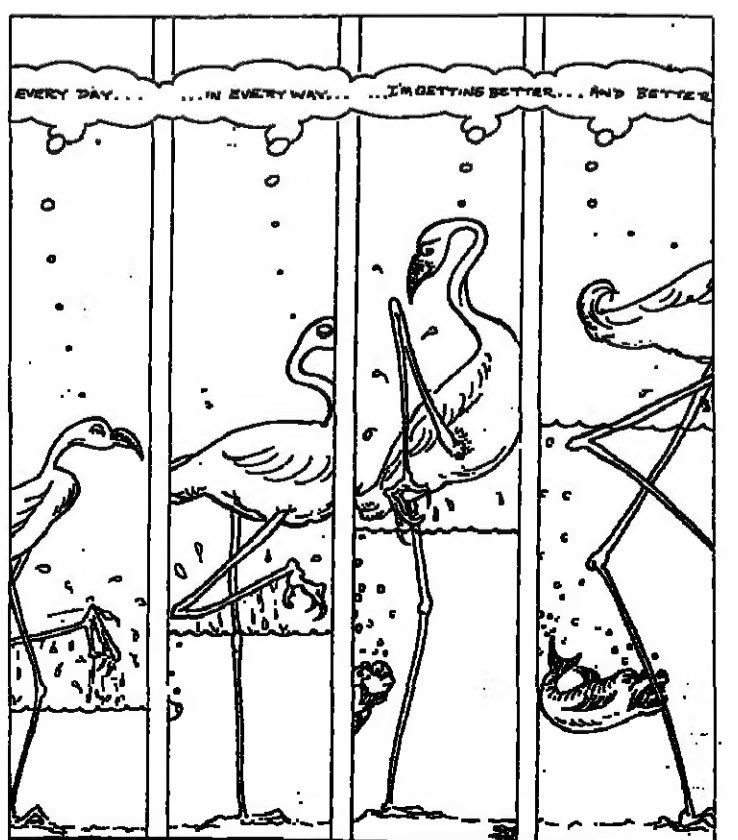
Who buys them? All kinds of

people, he says. "They have a very wide appeal, to younger students, A-level candidates, people who want to know about important subject but shy away from heavy books. The bookshops are groaning with books on Freud and Darwin, but people look at them and say, 'Where the hell do I start?' Our books lead people into a subject, they find it interesting, it's seductive, then the bibliographies may lead them on to other books."

Some of the buyers are unexpected, he admits. The Kensington branch of the Conservative party placed a big order for *Marx for Beginners*. More predictably, perhaps, 200 copies of *Freud for Beginners* have already been ordered by the Freud Museum.

The authors are serious people like Jonathan Miller, who wrote the Darwin title, and Joseph Schwartz, a former professor of physics at City University in New York, who wrote *Einstein for Beginners*. Dr Schwartz is thrilled that the book is being reissued again: "I've always really liked it. Einstein's such an icon, people think they'll never understand relativity. But when I talk to people who have read the book, I often find they have understood much more than they realise."

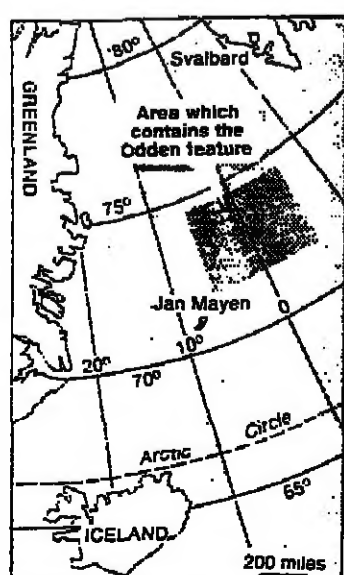
N. H.



Evolution easily explained: an extract from *Darwin for Beginners*

A British team plans to investigate a phenomenon that controls carbon dioxide in the oceans

Icy tongue to lick global warming?



Natural order: Odden feature

British scientists are to launch an expedition to the Greenland Sea to study a vast, tongue-shaped sheet of ice called the Odden feature.

The tongue, a 300km square sheet of rapidly growing and shrinking ice that forms from the normal ice edge in eastern Greenland, is believed to be crucial in ordering the climate and could be one of the most important natural events helping to prevent global warming. The project is part of the Winter Greenland Sea project.

Research indicates that the feature plays a role in transporting large quantities of carbon dioxide, the gas linked with global warming, from the surface of the seas to the ocean floor, where it becomes trapped.

Scientists suspect that, over a two to three-month period in the

winter, the rapid melting and freezing of the Odden feature leaves high concentrations of salt in the surface sea layers.

This then makes the surface sea water denser than the layers underneath, causing it to sink to the ocean floor in plumes or channels of about a kilometre wide, and carrying carbon dioxide with it.

Apart from the Odden feature, only two other places in the world, in the Labrador Sea and the Weddell Sea, carry out this unique process.

Peter Wadhams, director of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, which is orchestrating the mission in collaboration with the Admiralty, said: "About 20 per cent of the carbon dioxide absorbed by the oceans as a whole is got rid of in this way."

The project, which will attempt

to observe and take measurements of the phenomenon as it happens, and is being planned for early next year, hopes to use the RRS James Clark Ross and RMAS Newton.

The scheme will also allow scientists to test Britain's first robot submarine, which was unveiled at Oceanology International 92 in Brighton earlier this month.

The autonomous underwater vehicle, developed by Marconi Underwater Systems with some backing from the trade and industry department under its Wealth From The Oceans initiative, is capable of operating unaided for 300km in icy waters. The company adapted torpedo and defence electronics to develop the 6 metre-long vehicle.

The device, bristling with sonar scanners and sensors able to gather information on sea tem-

peratures, waterborne chemicals and marine life forms, will be used to measure the thickness of the Odden feature.

The research has presented the Marconi team with enormous technical challenges. For example, the vehicle and its instruments, when launched from a support ship, must be able to withstand air temperatures as low as minus 40 deg C before plunging into the Arctic waters.

Andy Tonge, project leader at Marconi in Waterlooville, Hampshire, said the company hoped to begin testing the robot in a flooded quarry in the Somerset hills in three weeks' time. These trials will be followed by tests throughout the spring and summer off Weymouth and Aberdeen before the Arctic mission.

NICK NUTTALL

Whether helping young people to avoid the HIV virus or putting up anti-smoking posters, health educators are always busy, says Bernardine Coverley

Putting health on everyone's map

As the waiting lists for surgery capture the headlines, health education, or health promotion, has come into its own. Well publicised reports such as heart disease in urban male Scots, and earlier findings about children's tooth decay, have highlighted links between diet and health. The popularity of exercise as good health practice is another example of public response, with a fast growing industry of fitness studios. The World Health Organisation's push to improve health significantly by the year 2000 is also adding impetus.

However, it is in advertising that health education is designed to have most impact. At the Islington health promotion office of Bloomsbury & Islington District Health Authority, Athena Daniels's cosy office is decorated with many fine examples. "Alcohol, no thanks I'm pregnant" and "The worst dope in town" speak for themselves while "It doesn't have to be hell" encourages sensible diet and exercise.

Ms Daniels is health promotion

manager and her brief covers women's and children's health. The emphasis, she says, is no longer just on teaching. "Now the key word is enabling. We make people aware of the effects of lifestyle and environment and get them involved in staying healthy." The health promotion department includes several HIV advisers, a project worker and a senior officer responsible for initiatives on smoking, drinking and diet.

They work with schools, community groups and health centres and run courses for nurses, teachers and home helps who are often on the frontline of changes in healthcare. Home helps who are generally accustomed to the elderly, benefit from training on the needs of young, disabled people who are now encouraged to be as independent as possible.

Even the most intransigent, unhealthy person can be reached. It is a measure of the change of attitude towards health that No Smoking Day is no longer an annoying campaign by a small group of activists, largely ignored and quickly forgotten. Since the

success of the no-smoking areas in trains, buses, public places and offices each publicity day gains more attention and the reasons behind it more acceptance.

Information from the Health Education Authority and charities like the Meningitis Trust is circulated through the Department of Health authorities. "We keep a catalogue of leaflets, videos and books and encourage borrowing by health centres and any local groups," says Ms Daniels.

Since the days of Florence Nightingale health education, like nursing, has attracted women. This is changing with the broadening scope of health work and it is often a second career after experience in social sciences, teaching or community work, with many more men in evidence. Jobs within the health field reflect the usefulness of these backgrounds; drug abuse; women and HIV prevention; the health problems of low-income families.

Michael Collins finds his teaching experience in Dublin and England invaluable in his present job for Rugby NHS Trust. He is



Gina Warrillow advises drug abusers in north London: "It can be very stressful but it's not all crisis."

responsible for training and education in HIV prevention for young people and describes his work as "pro-active". As sole worker in his particular niche everything he initiates he puts into practice in addition to administering the budget.

Rugby is a market town with eight secondary schools, youth centres, a further education college and a youth custody centre on the borders with Coventry. As adviser he works with teachers on

how to bring up the subject of HIV prevention, and why.

"Since education is all we have to prevent the spread of the virus I have to convince people. It's not presented as a topic in isolation but as part of people's lives and relationships. I bring in being assertive because peer pressure is very strong and moralising has to be avoided."

He deals with these complex problems by running courses for teachers, devising teaching mate-

rials and arranging TIE workshops and student discussions.

Details on Diploma and MSc in Health Education, full or part time: Dept of Health & Community Studies, Leeds Polytechnic, Leeds LS1 3HE. Diploma & MSc in Health Education, staged full time over 1-3 years, Dept of Community Health & Nursing Studies, South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. Further information on careers and courses from the Health Education Authority, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9TX.

DRUG ABUSE

Room for the human response

SOME individuals find health services less accessible than others and the Angel Project in North London, a voluntary organisation for drug users, tries to tackle the problem. "I get asked questions like 'Is it true I can get a heart attack and die if I take Ecstasy?' or 'I've been using heroin for five years how can I stop?'" says Gina Warrillow, aged 30, one of the advice workers.

She is available to drug users, friends and relations at drop-in sessions or on the helpline, and advises on safer practices in terms of HIV and Aids like using the needle exchange service.

An important part of the work is communication. "I'm here to be responsive. It's possible to point out what is actually dangerous and what is detrimental to their general health. If someone is not eating properly, for example, I can suggest liquid supplements."

Miss Warrillow has a Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW) and a Diploma in Health Studies. The next obvious step is management but she prefers the direct approach. "It can be very stressful but it's not all crisis. I'll always push paper aside for the human response. I like people."

071-481 4481

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

071-481 9313
071-782 7828

Team Manager

Salary: Grade G £16,100 - £22,400

Young Adolescent Resource Centre, Chatham

The Young Adolescent Resource Centre is a key component in the Medway/Swale area's overall strategy for responding to the needs of young people and their families, based on a flexible and integrated use of services, with the emphasis on support in the community and avoiding the need for the ongoing provision of care.

We require an energetic and imaginative Team Manager to help us to build a quality service using the facilities at this new unit. Duties will include the professional guidance and supervision of staff, and the overall responsibility for the development and use of the resources of the unit, which has a residential and day care capability. A close working relationship with the area housing team is crucial to the success of this venture.

The successful applicant will have first-class management potential, the ability to motivate staff, maintain high professional standards, and manage the resources of the unit effectively.

The General Management Team can offer:-

- A positive, performance driven management culture,
- excellent working environments,
- commitment to regular supervision, training and professional development,
- subsidised lease car and relocation package (where appropriate).

Applicants for the above post should be professionally qualified and experienced in the field of therapeutic work with young people (CQSW, CSS etc).

Evidence of managerial and supervisory skills will also be required.

For informal discussion/enquiries, please contact Bob Gower, Assistant General Manager on Medway (0634) 881251.

For job description and application form, returnable by 3 April 1992, contact Mrs Margaret Seabrook, Medway/Swale Area Office, Compass Centre South, Chatham, Kent ME4 4YH. Telephone: Medway (0634) 881287 (24 hours). Please quote reference number 07324.



Kent County Council is an equal opportunity employer.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE MAGDALENE COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Magdalene College Cambridge invites applications for the important and challenging full-time appointment of Development Director, to take office from 1 October 1992. A successful record of fund-raising and expertise in development procedures is essential. The salary for this non-pensionable office will be up to £35,000 p.a. The person appointed will have the privileges associated with a Fellowship. Applications must be sent to the Bursar, Magdalene College, Cambridge, CB3 0AG not later than 17 April 1992, together with a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees. The College is an equal opportunities employer.

Planning Solicitor

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS SECTION

Salary up to £27,145 + lease car

We have an ideal opportunity if you are keen to develop your career and experience in the area of Planning Law.

As a Solicitor with a team dealing with both Planning and Highways work, you will primarily specialise in planning, and access to the countryside matters, including inquiries, appeals and agreements.

You should be keen to learn, committed to quality service and standards and although previous Planning or Local Government experience would be desirable, if you are a recently qualified solicitor with some negotiation and advocacy skills and looking for a challenging environment, we could offer you the ideal career move.

In addition to the salary and lease car, there is a generous relocation package including 100% repayment of removal and legal costs and the possibility of temporary housing if needed.

For further details please telephone Eileen Saunders (0243) 777782 or write to the County Secretary, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ.

Closing date: 6th April, 1992.
(20341)



west sussex

PARKING COMMITTEE for LONDON

The Road Traffic Act 1991 transferred significant parking enforcement powers in London from the Police to the London boroughs by decentralising parking offences. A joint committee, the Parking Committee for London, is now responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the new powers.

The PC/L proposes to employ a small number of key staff over the next few months starting with the key positions of London Parking Director and Chief Adjudicator. Both appointments will be based in the Westminster area and will be made for a fixed term of two years in the first instance.

LONDON PARKING DIRECTOR c.£47,000

You will be a highly motivated and committed individual able to take overall responsibility for the work of the Committee and to develop concepts and initiatives into working practices. You will advise on issues affecting the operation and administration of parking enforcement matters in London as they affect the Committee's functions and deal with government departments, local authorities, police authorities, the media and other bodies at a senior level.

Educated to degree or equivalent standard, you will be an experienced senior manager with good financial and human resource management skills. You will possess effective leadership and communication skills enabling you to achieve demanding targets. A practical understanding of information technology will be expected as will a basic understanding of local government.

CHIEF ADJUDICATOR c.£40,000

An adjudication service will be established to deal with appeals against the penalty charges which will be issued by the London local authorities.

The Chief Adjudicator will take on the important and challenging task of devising, implementing and managing a fair and efficient appeal system for aggrieved motorists, and will help to recruit and train a team of adjudicators.

You must have a 5-year qualification as a practising barrister or solicitor. You must possess the skills to devise a complex administrative system, be able to lead a team embarking on its implementation and have excellent communication skills. A practical understanding of information technology will be expected.

For an information pack and application form write to THE PARKING COMMITTEE for LONDON, 36 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JF. Closing date for completed applications is Friday 17 April 1992.

DIRECTOR DESIGNATE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Regent St, London W1

to £20,000

The Director of Anzac, an Area Advisory Group to the DTI who is also the Director of the Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea Chambers of Commerce, plans to retire in a year and a Director Designate is now being sought.

As the successful candidate, you will probably be in your late 40's or early 50's and will be looking for a second career where financial reward is not the prime motivation. It is essential that you possess commercial experience at a senior level and have a good knowledge of Australia and New Zealand, as you will be responsible for • developing trade and investment in both directions • outward and inward mission in conjunction with the DTI.

Another important aspect of your responsibilities will be • developing and implementing all aspects of special events, including seminars, lunches, receptions, and roadshows and organising venues • developing sponsorship and innovation of programme concepts • co-ordinating all areas of membership growth and development.

Key personal qualities will therefore need to include: sound organisational and administrative skills, strong written and verbal communication and presentational attributes, as well as having an understanding of setting budgets and managing accounts. You should live within easy commuting distance of London, as there will be evening events to attend. Limited overseas travel will also be required. Please write with full Curriculum Vitae plus current passport photo with a covering letter detailing the 'added value' that you can bring to this appointment to: R Wellesley, ABCC (UK), Suite 615, 162-168 Regent Street, London W1R 5TB.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON



London Zoo Chief Executive.

The Zoological Society of London, which runs zoos at Regent's Park and Whipsnade and the Institute of Zoology, is seeking a Chief Executive for London Zoo. The Zoo is at an exciting stage of its long history and offers a challenging opportunity for the right candidate. The Zoo has wide responsibilities in animal conservation, husbandry and welfare, breeding endangered species and the advancement and dissemination of zoological knowledge.

Applicants should have a proven record of management at a senior level and first class administrative experience. Leadership ability will be essential and a broad and practical knowledge of visitor orientated management is desirable.

Please reply with a full CV, the names of three referees and current salary to Sir Barry Cross CBE FRS, The Secretary, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, by 16 April 1992.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (3165569)
- 9.25 **Schools** (54582279)
- 12.00 **Noah's Ark**. Spanish documentary series about the nature and environment of Venezuela (161502)
- 12.30 **Rushes Daily**. The latest news from the world's financial centres (13453)
- 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Entertaining early-learning series (18908)
- 2.00 **Film: Pygmalion** (1936, b/w) starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hill. Classic adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's play, later to become the musical *My Fair Lady*, about a speech professor who befriends a friend he can pass off as a Covent Garden flower seller as a duddess. Wilford Lawson is a splendid Doolittle. Directed by Anthony Asquith (529927)
- 3.45 **Disabling Worlds: Third Wave** with Marvis Nicholson. A report on an elderly couple whose lives have been blighted by Alzheimer's, the disease to which the wife will inherit. (Teletext 238)
- 4.39 **Countdown**. Another round of the words and numbers game, presented by Richard Whiteley (892)
- 5.00 **It's A Dog's Life**. Mike Futley explores the Canine Bishdon competition (r) (8347)
- 5.30 **D'Art**. Sir Ian McKellen talks to Ray Harrison Graham about access to the theatre for deaf actors and audiences (144)
- 6.00 **Treasure Hunt**. Anabel Croft scurries over the Malvern hills on the commands of two Londoners, John Campbell and Peter Steadman (r) (86144)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. (Teletext 8072)
- 7.50 **Voters**. Three of the Romford electorate discuss general election issues that are important to them (893231)
- 8.00 **Disabling Worlds: People First**. The first of a two-part examination



Kindred spirits: Rita Tushingham and Denholm Elliott (9.00pm)

Oscar-winner: Daniel Day-Lewis with Fiona Shaw (8.30pm)

8.30 Film: My Left Foot (1989).
★ CHOICE: Jim Sheridan's biopic of the Irish writer and artist Christy Brown is a natural entry for the Channel 4 disability week. The success of the film lies in striking the right note. Christy's battle with cerebral palsy is heroic but never sentimentalised. Both Daniel Day-Lewis and Fiona Shaw as his wife and 'Caretaker' as the younger version give performances that compel sympathy without glossing over the pain. Indeed the film is uniformly well acted and the award of Oscars to Day-Lewis and to Brenda Fricker, who plays Christy's mum, was deserved if unexpected. Sheridan's influence is probably greater in the screenplay, a joint effort with Shane Connaughtan, than in direction which refuses to intrude and which gives admirable cast members, like Fricker and Fiona Shaw shine in supporting roles. (Teletext) (57728453)

10.25 Disabling World: The Year of the Patronising Bastard. Andrew Denton explores disability through interviews and sketches focusing on the difficulties caused by the attitudes of people towards disabled people. (Teletext) (865304)

11.15 Disabling World: Inference. The first of a three-part series which Jim Sheridan examines the perceptions, the tangled world of relationships between disabled and non-disabled people. (Teletext) (454811)

11.45 Midnight Spectre presented by Sheila McDonald. Includes a Labour party political broadcast (684182)

1.45 Film: Staircase (1969). Botched comedy starring Rex Harrison and Richard Burton as two ageing homosexuals sharing a flat and the best time of their lives as they run. Directed by Stanley Donen (656761). Ends at 2.30.

Start:

[illegible]

<p> 10.00-10.05 Steno on FM 5.55am Shipping Forecast 8.00 5.55am News, incl. 6.30am 6.00am Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.30am Preyer for the Day 6.30 6.30am News, incl. 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.55 7.55 Weather 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.55 Weather </p>	<p> 10.00-10.05 Steno on FM 5.55am Shipping Forecast 8.00 5.55am News, incl. 6.30am 6.00am Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.30am Preyer for the Day 6.30 6.30am News, incl. 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.55 7.55 Weather 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.55 Weather </p>
<p> 9.00 Steno on FM 9.05 Election Call: 071-799 5000 9.10 Voters are invited to call Robin Cook, Labour's health spokesman 10.00-10.30 A Hack Goes West PM only: The concluding part of Dylan Witter's American adventures along the Oregon Trail (a) 10.00-10.05 Service (LW only) 10.10-10.15 The Bible (LW only) 12.00-12.05 Campaign Report by Alan Steno </p>	<p> 4.05 Kaleidoscope learns about George Simenon in <i>The Man Who Wasn't Mugged</i> at the Birmingham Theatre and Simon Rattle, the conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, talks to a young audience (a) 4.45 Short Story: The Chestnut by June Berrie reads Francis Bollerley (a) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 6.30 Clock News 6.30 No Commitments: Sisters of Henry. Part of a six-part series by Brian Brett, with <i>Dead of After</i>. Henry, with a Rosemary Leach as Anna (a) (r) 7.00 7.05 The Archers 7.20-7.40 Pauline Randall (FM only) CH CHOICE: Impressively presented, although limited </p>

11.00 *News*, with Jeff Murray
and John W. O'Connell
Carney-Clarke about the
nominees orchestra, and 11:00
News

11.30 *Medicine Now*, with Geoff
Watts
The heart and lungs

12.00 *News*, with Debbie
Thrower

12.25 *Penelope* ... *Unpopular*: Nigel
Pawlett the guinea pig
game from the Swan Theatre
in Stratford-upon-Avon

1.00 *The World at One*, with
Jeremy Neighbour (LW only
from 1.40)

1.40 *The Archers (FM only) (r)*
The Shipping Forecast
The Archers: The Archers
Whispers, in Dave Simpson's
play, Edward de Souza is a
politician whose double life
with his wife and his mistress
is jeopardized when the latter
becomes pregnant. With Ann
Windsor and Barbara Merlen
(r)

2.30 *The Politics of Choice (LW*

conclusions are not put to the
British police for comment.
This is a *File on 4* inquiry into
the shooting dead by police of
Robert Jordan August and
Ian Bennett 12 weeks ago.
Both men carried weapons
that were either legal or non-
legal. Both had a history of
mental illness. And both
conceded Gerry North's
claim needed inquiry
because of current British
policy strategy. American
policies for dealing with
"insane" subjects
graphically described tonight,
are said to have a high
success rate

7.20 *News* (LW only) (r)
8.00-8.30 Campaign Report (LW
only)

8.00 *Once Upon a Time*
8.30 *Age to Age (r)*
9.00 *In Touch*, with Peter White
9.45 *News* (LW only)
10.00 *News* (LW only)
(c) 9.55 Weather

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